PFANDER
CENTRE FOR APOLOGETICS

'IN SEARCH OF THE MAN'

The Birth of Islam concerning what may have happened

The Traditional Story of Islam, unraveled by History

Dr. Jay Smith

2020

What the Muslims Claim

Whether they are radical – nominal – or liberal

Their Claims

For the last 1400 years…

Muhammad has been the last and greatest prophet

The **Qur'an** was his revelation, sent down only to him; and is the final and greatest revelation

Islam is the final religion, based on Muhammad's life and sayings (Sunnah), and on the Qur'an's teachings

CONCLUSION?

Thus Islam is completely dependent on:

- **THE QUR'AN = 'The Book'**
- **MUHAMMAD = 'The Man'**

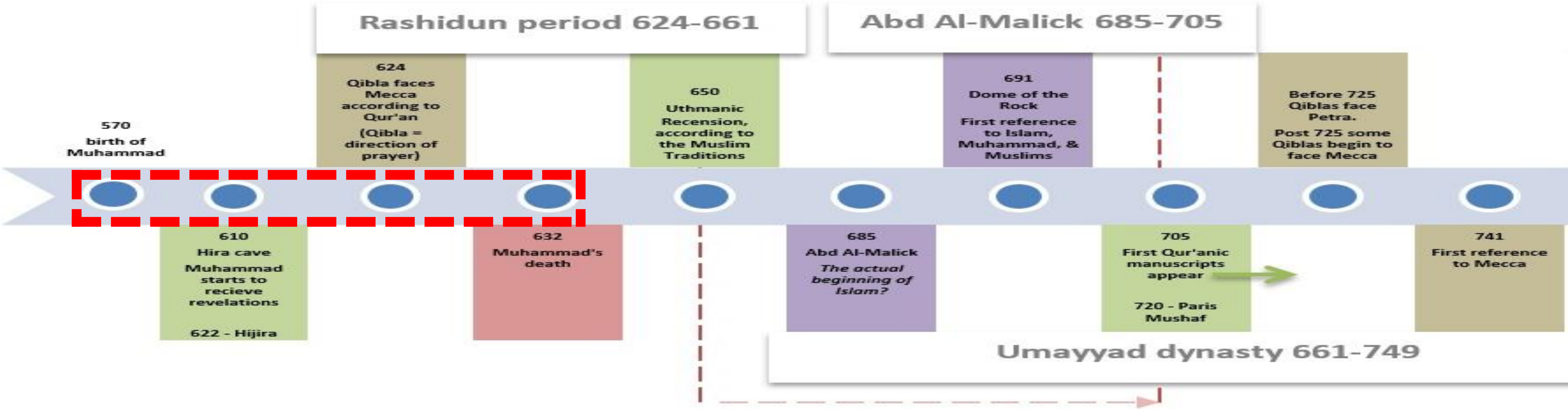
- *So, we should investigate both the Qur'an and Muhammad, and see if indeed the Muslims are correct.....*
- *Let's for this study look at Muhammad, and the emergence of his religion, Islam*

MUHAMMAD:
THE CLASSICAL ACCOUNT

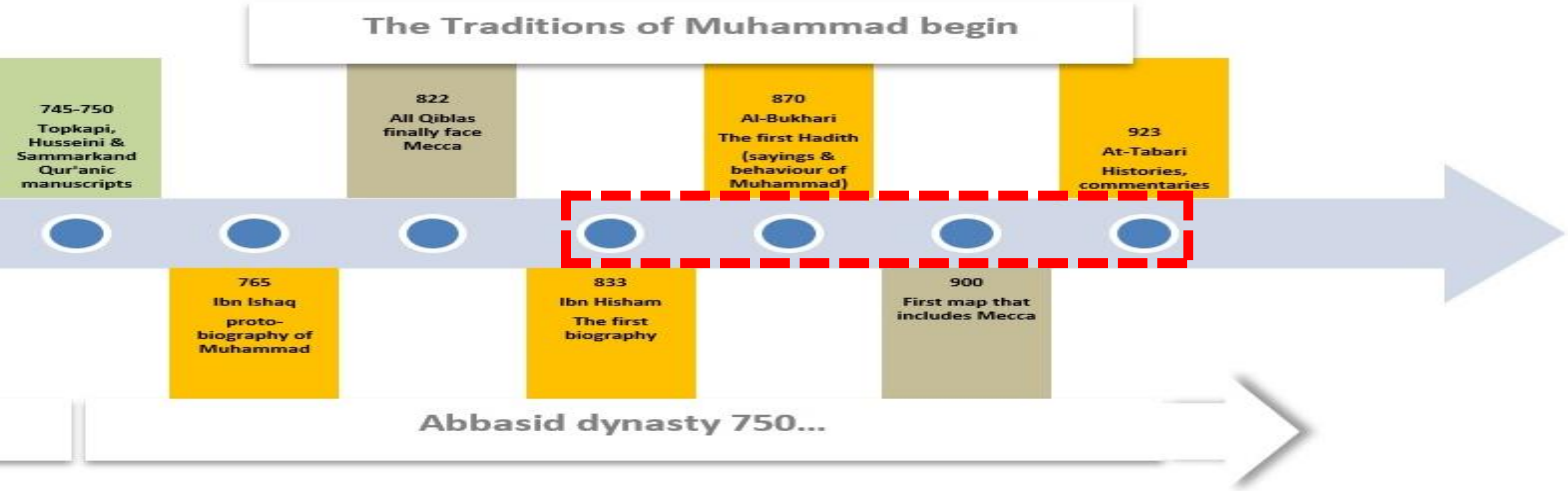
Important Dates:

570	Muhammad's birth
610	Met 'Jibril' in Hira Cave
610-622	'Meccan Revelations'
621	'Mi'raj' to 7 heavens (5 prayers)
622	'Hijra' from Mecca to Medina
622-632	'Medinan Revelations'
630	Conquered Mecca
632	Died (poisoning?) (no written Qur'an)
632-634	Abu Bakr
634-644	Umar
644-656	Uthman
656-661	Ali……

Dates when it all occured



Dates when it was written down…



Dates of the Classical Account

Who wrote them, and when:

765 Ibn Ishaq (Siratul Rasu'allah) (no extant manuscript)

833 Ibn Hisham (Siratul Rasu'allah)

870 Al Bukhari (Hadith) [Sahih Muslim, Tirmidhi…)

923 Al Tabari (Tafsir, Ta'rikh) [Baidawi, Zamakshari…)

Comparing Christianity vs Islam

When were the earliest biographies and sayings written?

- Christianity — **15 – 60** years later
- Islam — **200 – 300** years later

As a comparison: If we had to depend on sources for Jesus, comparable to those Muslims have for Muhammad, Jesus would not begin to appear until the **3rd century!**

21st Century Scholar's Criticisms

Concerning these late dates…

- "**Islam**, as we know it, **did not exist in the 7th century**, but evolved over a period of 200-300 years" (Humphreys 1991:71,83-89)

- "The Qur'an probably was not revealed to one man in 22 years, but likely **evolved over a period of 50-100 years**" (Rippin 1985:155;1990:3,25,60; Lester 99:44-45; Wansbrough 1977:160-163)

Conclusion: The history of Islam, at least from the time of the caliph Abd al-Malik (685-705 AD) and before, **is a later fabrication** (Cook 1983:65, Robinson 1996:47)

The Scholar's Concerns

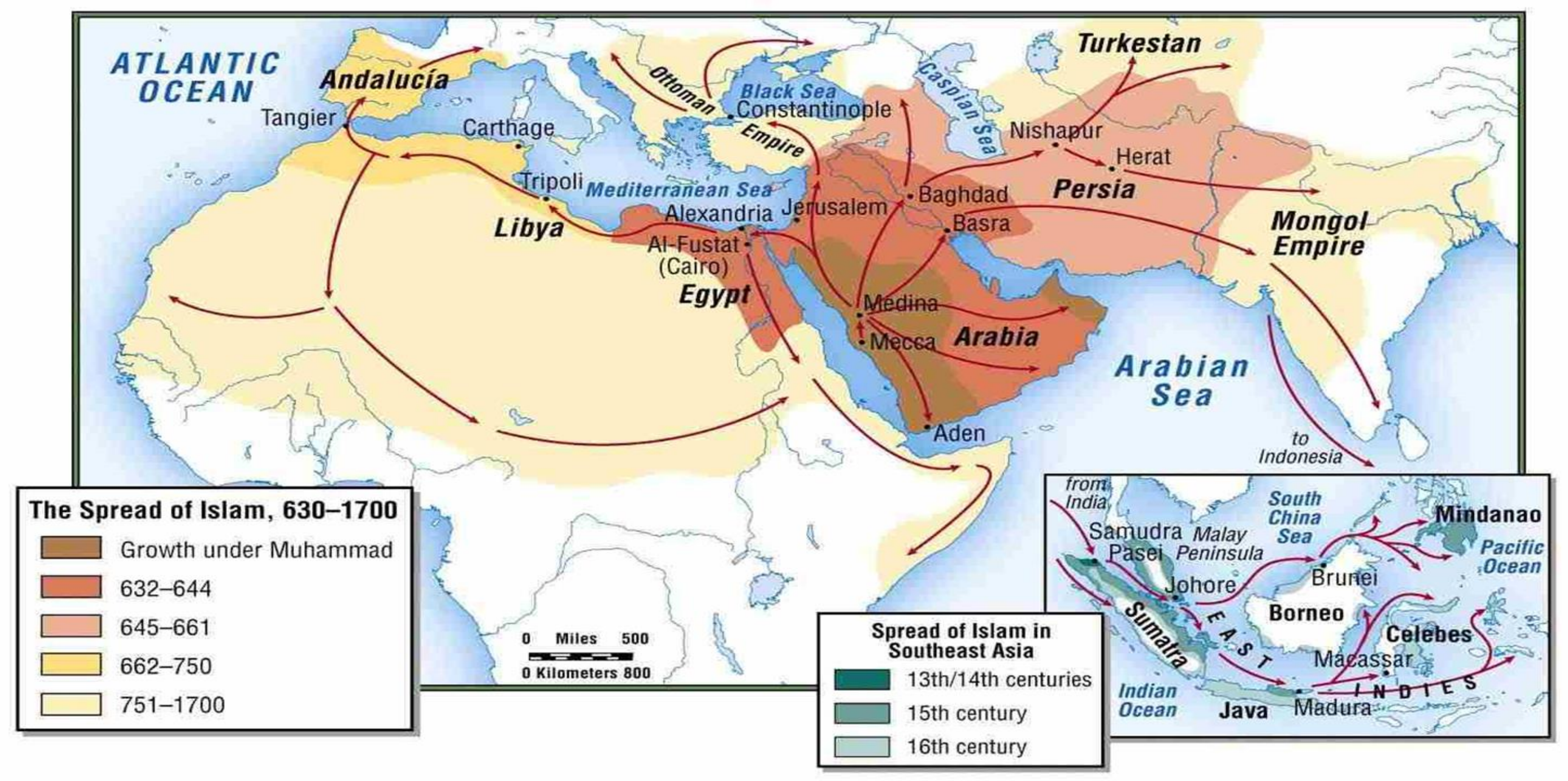
If so much of Islam's history was created so late, then:

- Why did it take so long to write it all down?
- Were these people not literate?
  - They controlled Basra, Baghdad, Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo by 642 AD, and then from Spain to India by 685 AD.
- Where did the 9th c. biographers get their material from?
- Can it be trusted, if it is so late (200-300 years later)?
- Shouldn't we go to the period these events took place?
- Shouldn't we go to the 7th century, and see what we find?

What then are they finding?

Islam's Expansion by 661 AD

Note: the area in brown was under their control



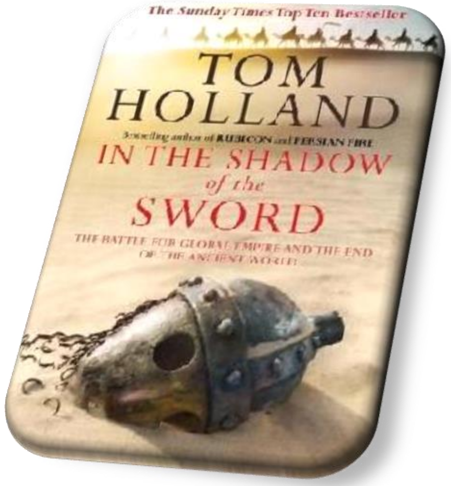
New Historical Critique

The Revisionist Scholars

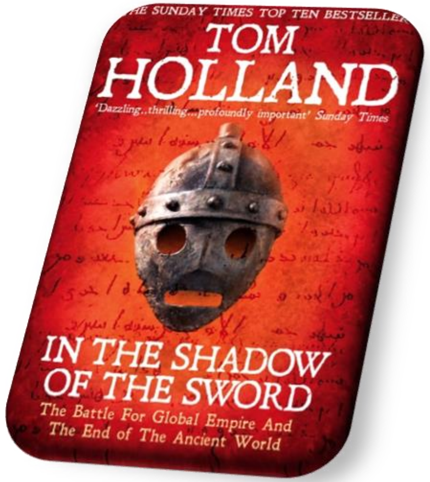
- **Wansborough** (SOAS: Qur’anic studies, Sect. Milieu)
- **Hawting** (SOAS: 1st c. of Islam)
- **Cröne** (Princeton: Meccan trade, 15 languages)
- **Rippin** (Calgary: Muslims, Their beliefs/Practices)
- **Hoyland** (Oxford: Seeing Islam as Others, 18 lang.)
- **Nevo** (Jerusalem: Crossroads to Islam, inscriptions)
- **Lűling, Puin, Von Bothmer, Ohlig** (Germany, MSS)

- **THREE NEW BOOKS and TWO NEW DOCUMENTARIES WHICH ARE PAVING THE WAY….**

‘In the Shadow of the Sword’



UK version



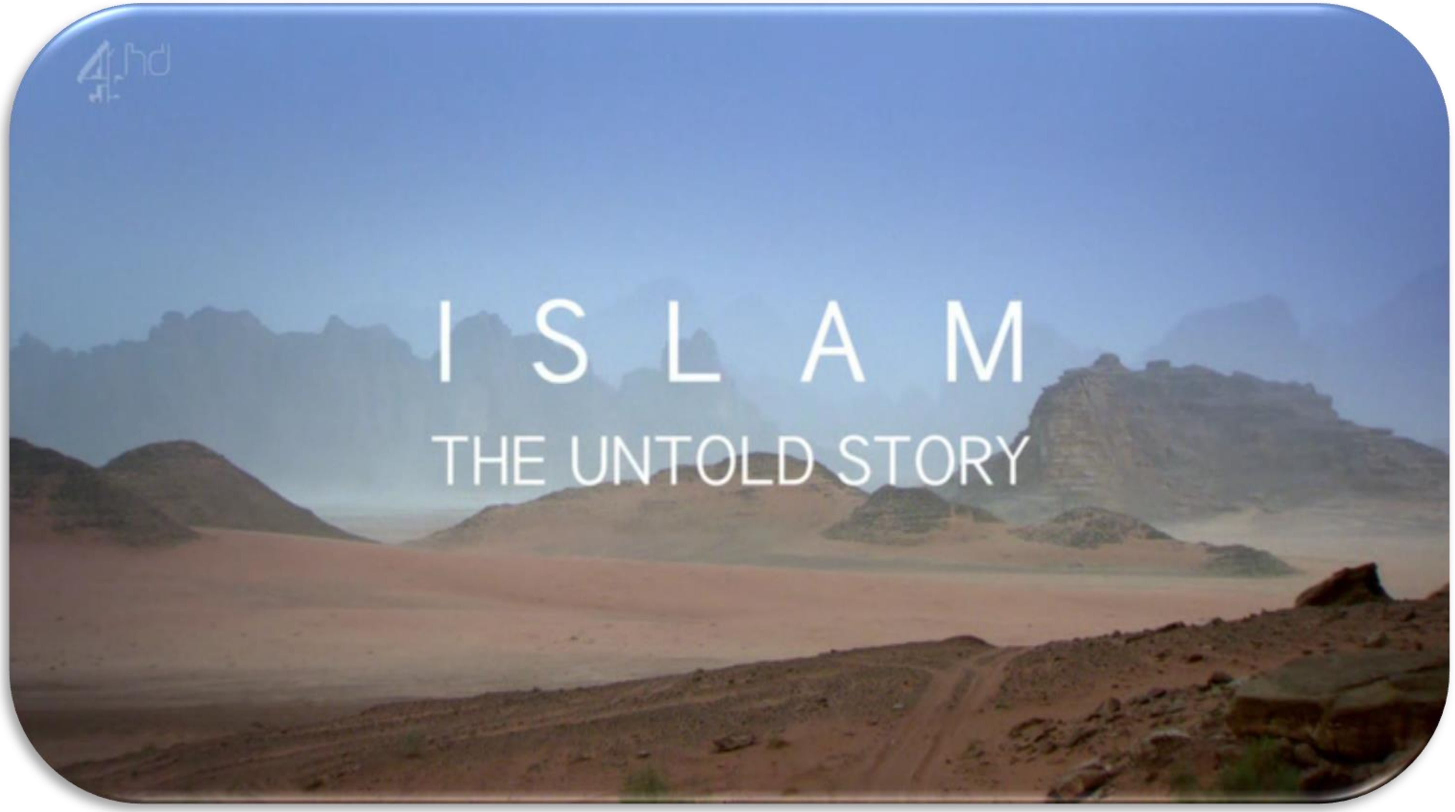
US version

Dr. Tom Holland

‘Islam, the Untold Story’

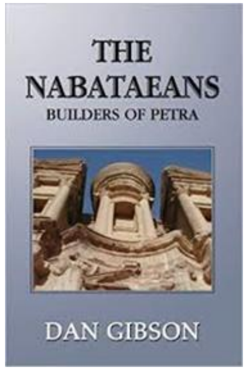
Documentary by Dr. Tom Holland

Channel 4, Aug. 28, 2012 (not re-shown a 2nd time, due to outside pressure)

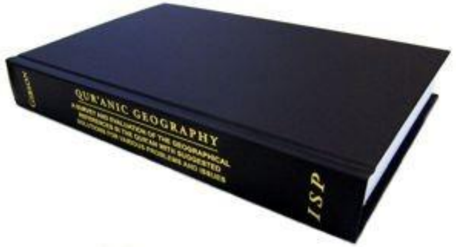


‘Dan Gibson’s Research’

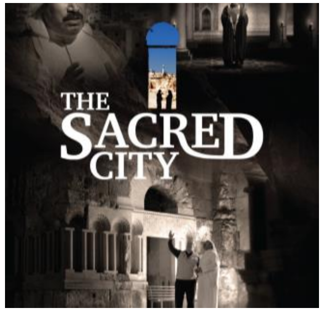
Dan Gibson (1979-2004)



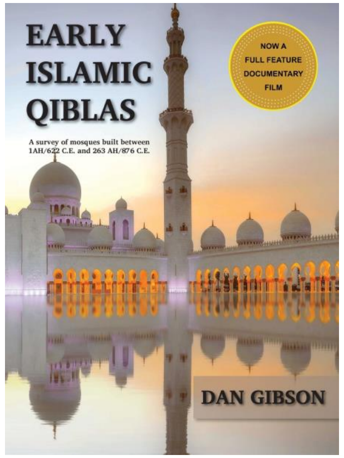
The Nabateans (2003)



Qur’anic Geography (2011)



The Sacred City (2016)



Early Islamic Qiblas (2017)

Talking with Dan Gibson(2019)

The Scholars Findings

Concerning Early Islam

- 1st **Arab** inscription referencing **Muhammad** is in **691** (**Volker Popp**-Ohlig & Puin 2010:53)
- 1st reference to '**Muslims**' is in **690s** -' before then they were called: **Saracen', 'Hagarene', 'Ishmaelite', 'Maghraye', 'Muhajiroun'** ('**Chronicle of John of Niku**' – 1602, & **Nevo & Koren**, 2003:234)
- 1st reference to '**Islam**' is not until **691** (**Dome of the Rock**) (**Volker Popp**-Ohlig, & Puin 2010:71)
- 1st reference to **Mecca** is not till **741** (**Crone** 1987:134-136; **Hoyland** 1997:426; **Holland** 2012:303)
- 1st **biography** of **Muhammad** within Islamic sources is not until **833** (**Ibn Hisham**)

Problem 1: **Geography**

The Qur'an has just 65 Geographical references!

- Only 9 places named
  - **'Ad** (**23x**) (Biblical '**Uz**)
  - **Thamud** (**24x**) (**Nabateans**)
    - *Cut dwellings into mountains*
  - **Midian** (**7x**) (**Midianites**)
    - *They must be important*
    - *Yet, all 3 civilisations are located in Northern Arabia and <u>not</u> near* ***<u>MECCA!</u>***
- **600 miles <u>too far NORTH</u>!**

Comparison

The Qur'an

- 65 geographical references
- 9 places named
- 600 miles too far NORTH!
- ALL in the wrong places!

The Gospel of Luke

- 110 geographical references
- 31 places named
- Right where they belong!
- ALL in the right places!

Problem 2: **Mecca**

وهو الذى كف ايديهم عنكم وايديكم عنهم ببطن مكه من بعد ان اظفركم عليهم وكان الله بما تعملون بصيرا

*And he it is who hath withheld men's hands from you, and hath withheld your hands from them, in the valley of **Mecca**, after he had made you victors over them. Allāh is Seer of what ye do.* **Sūra 48:24** (Pickthall)

- Could this be a later redaction from Bakkah - Mecca? (Nikolai Sinai-2014)

ان اول بيت وضع للناس للذى ببكه مباركا وهدى للعالمين

*Behold, the first temple (house) ever set up for mankind was indeed the one at **Bakkah**: rich in blessing, and a [source of] guidance unto all the worlds.* **Qur'ān 3:96** (Asad)

Mecca – According to Islam

Mecca is the **center of Islam**, and the **center of history**

(Note: none of the verses below use the word "Mecca". It's only implied)

- "The **first sanctuary** appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Mecca)"? (Sura 3:96)
- Mecca is the "**mother of all settlements**." (Sura 6:92 & 42:7)
- Mecca was where **Adam & Eve** were thrown down to (Sura 7:24)
- Mecca was where **Abraham** lived in 1900 BC (Sura 21:51-71)
- Mecca was **where Muhammad** was **born** and lived until 622
- Mecca became the center for the **Qibla** **in 624** (Sura 2:149-150)

Yet, the **only reference** to 'Mecca' in the Qur'an is in **Sura 48:24**…Why, if it is so important?

LITTLE VEGETATION!

According to the Qur'an and the Traditions,

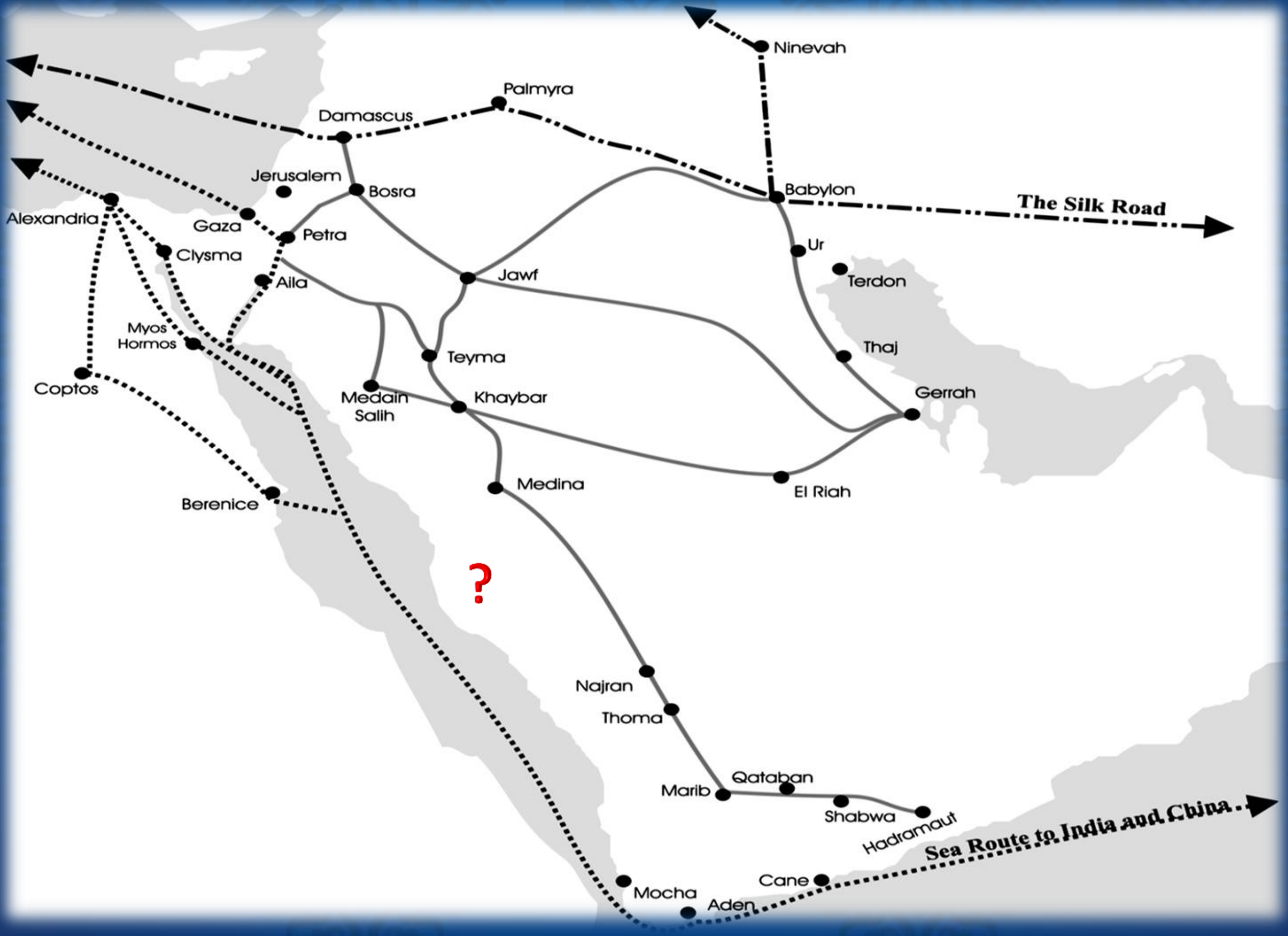
Mecca is `**The Place of the Prophet**'

- In a valley, & parallel valley **(Ibn Ishaq; Al Bukhari 2:645, 2:685, 3:891, 2:815, 2:820, 4:227)**
- With a stream **(Al Bukhari 2:685)**
- Outside is the ruins, and a pillar of 'salt' **(Surah 37:133-138)**
- With fields **(Al Bukhari 9:337)**
- Has Trees **(Sahih al-Tirmidhi 1535),** Grass **(al Bukhari 9:337),** fruit **(Al Bukhari 4:281),** Clay and Loam **(Al Tabari VI 1079 p.6)**
- Has 'Olive Trees' **(Surah 6141; Surah 16; Surah 80)**
- With Mountains overlooking the Kaa'ba **(Ibn Ishaq; Al Bukhari 2:645, 2:685, 3:891, 2:815, 2:820, 4:227)**

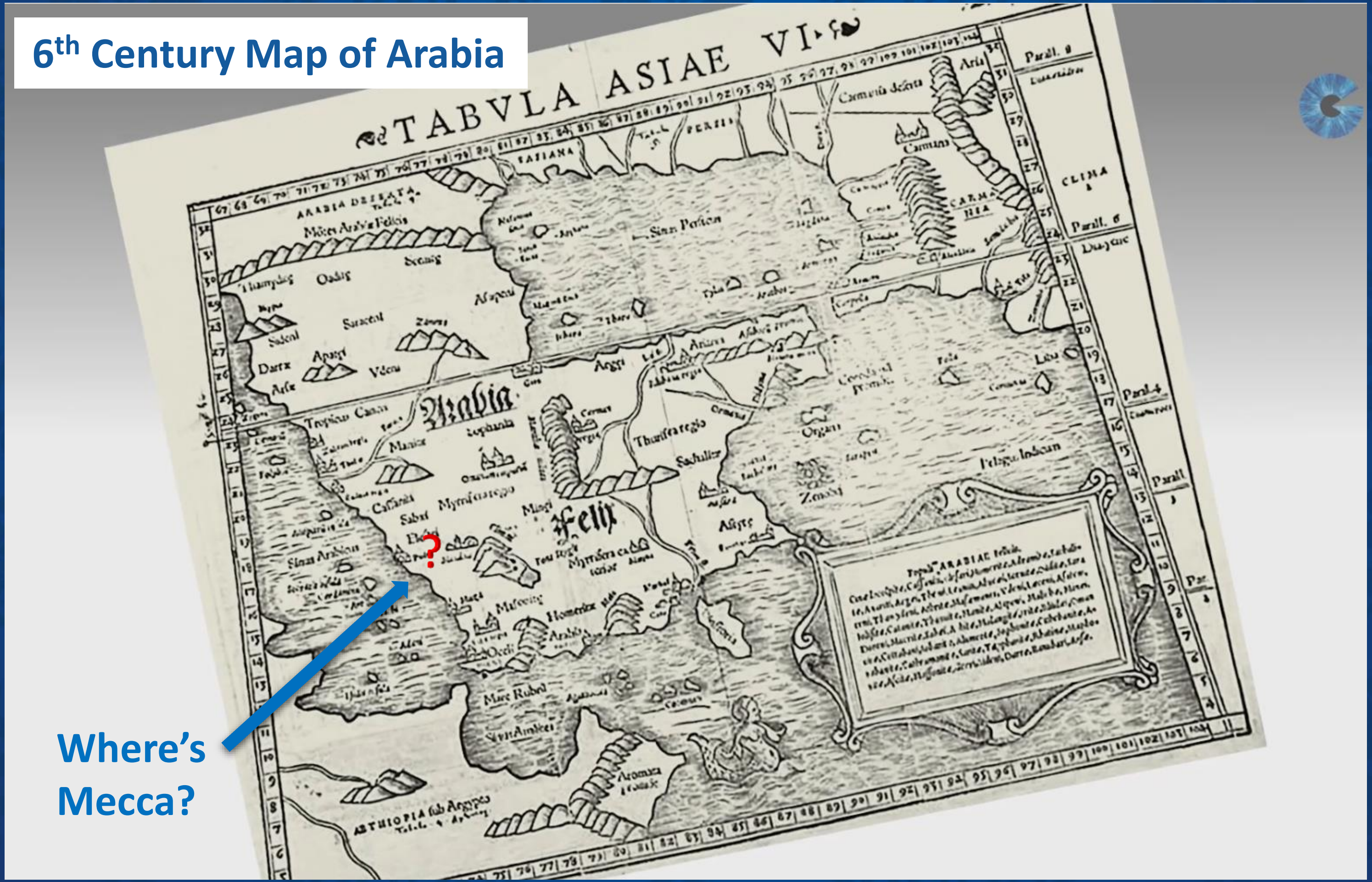
Yet, Mecca is not in a valley, and has none of these listed above, because it is too arid and dry

7th c. Byzantine map (modern facsimile)
What's missing?

7th c. Arab Trade Routes (modern facsimile)
What's missing…?

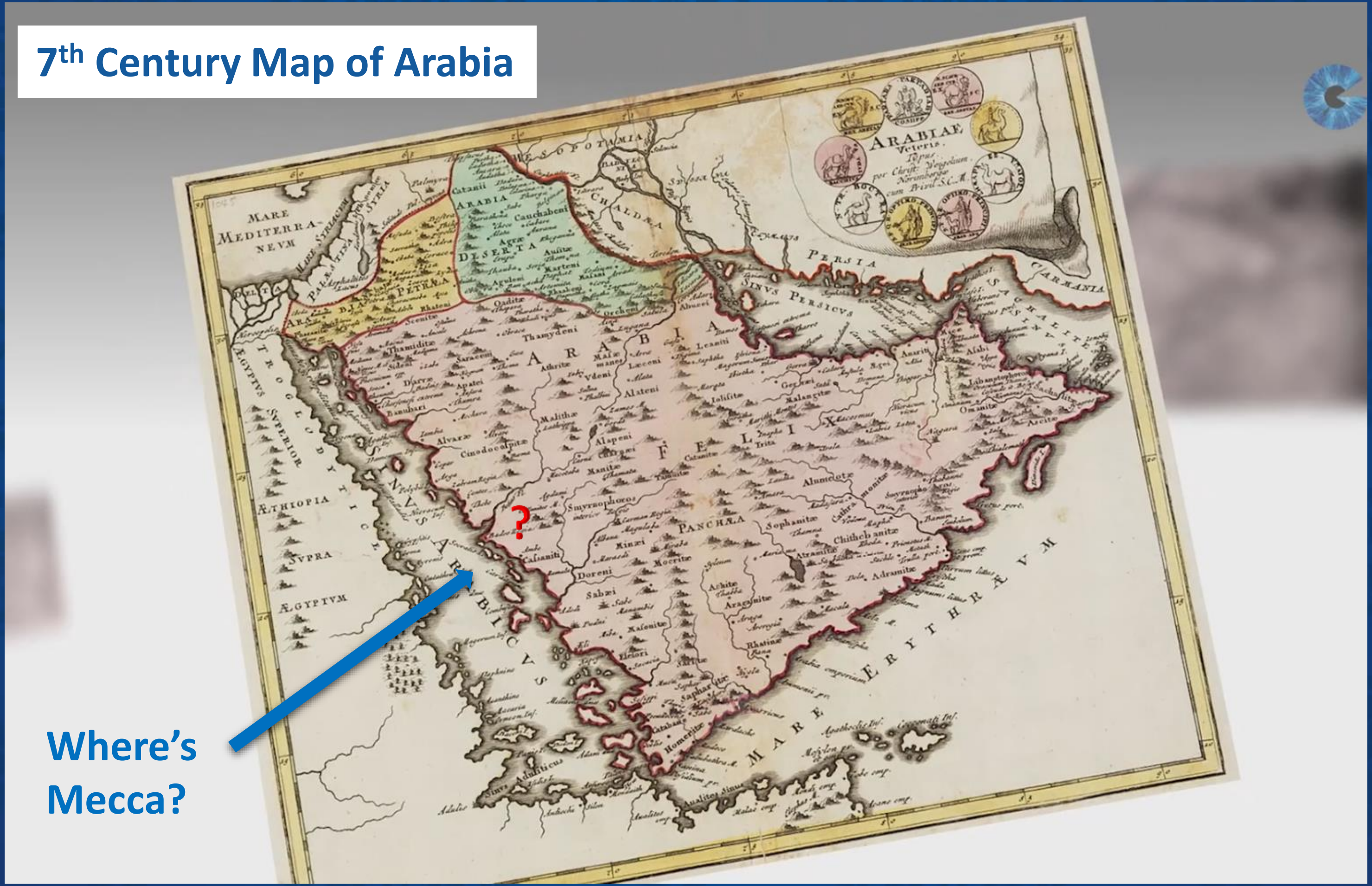


6th century Map
Mecca doesn't exist



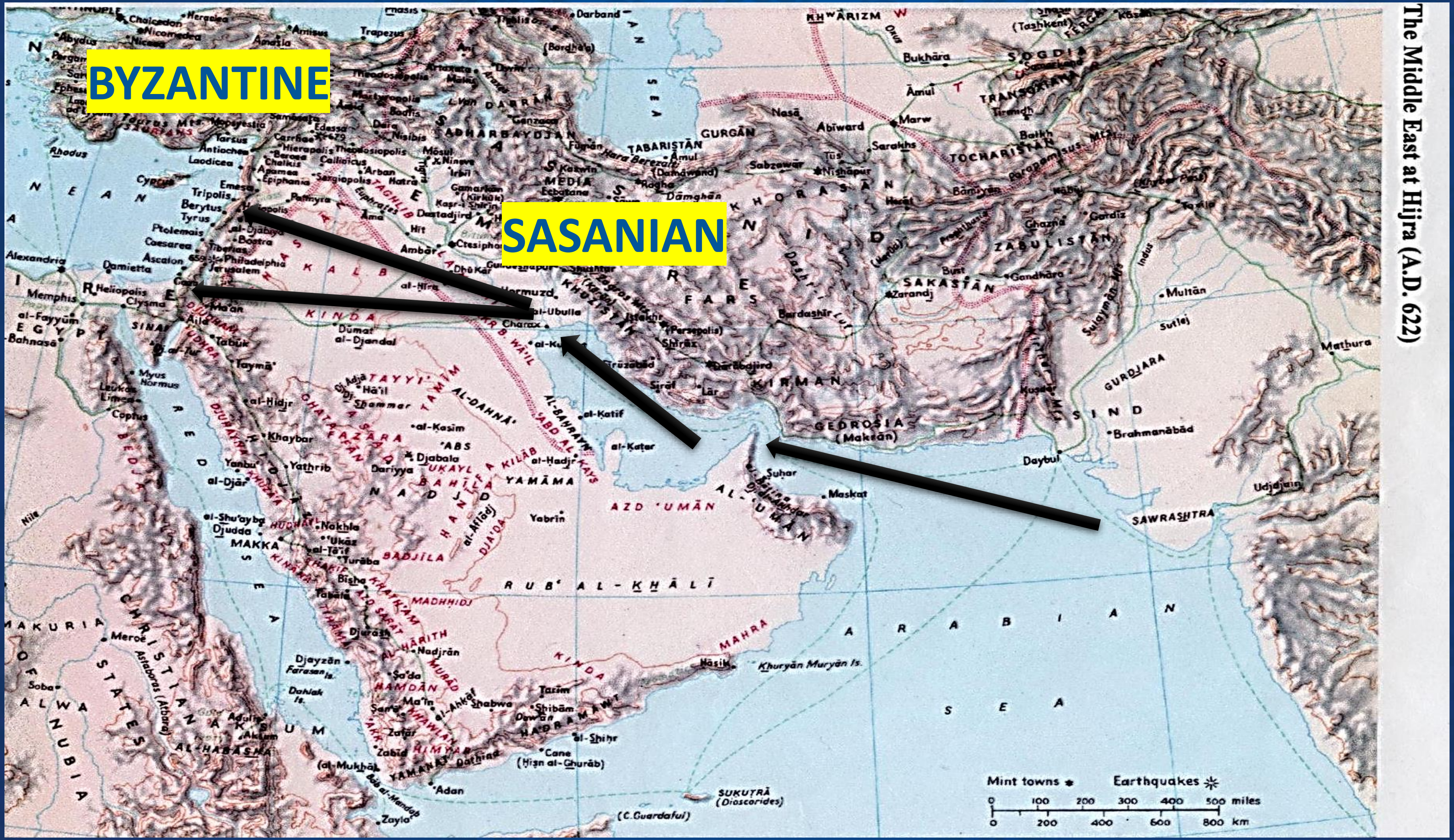
7th century Map
Mecca doesn't exist either…

7th century Map
Mecca…still missing

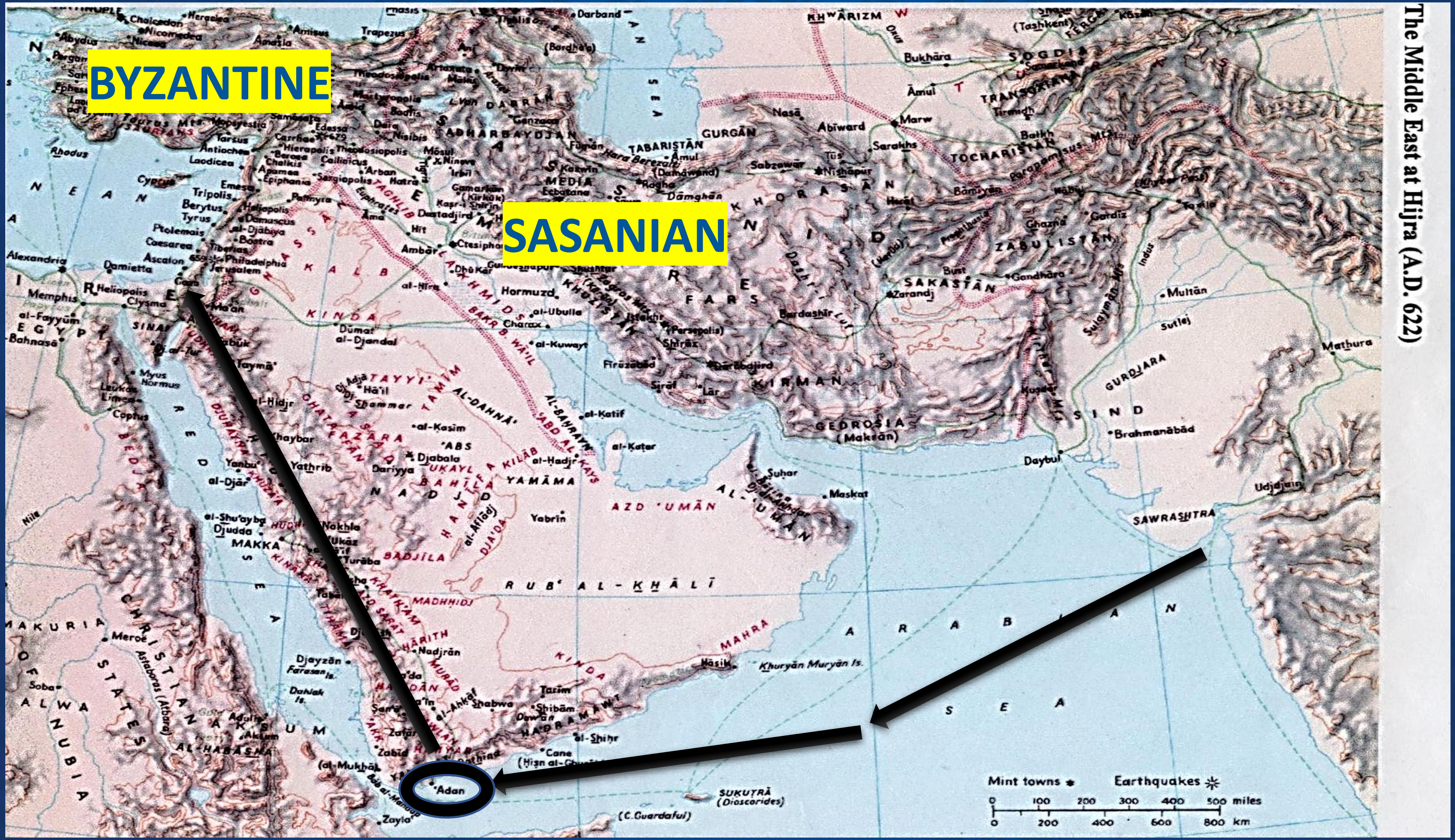


7th century Map
Mecca…just non-existent!

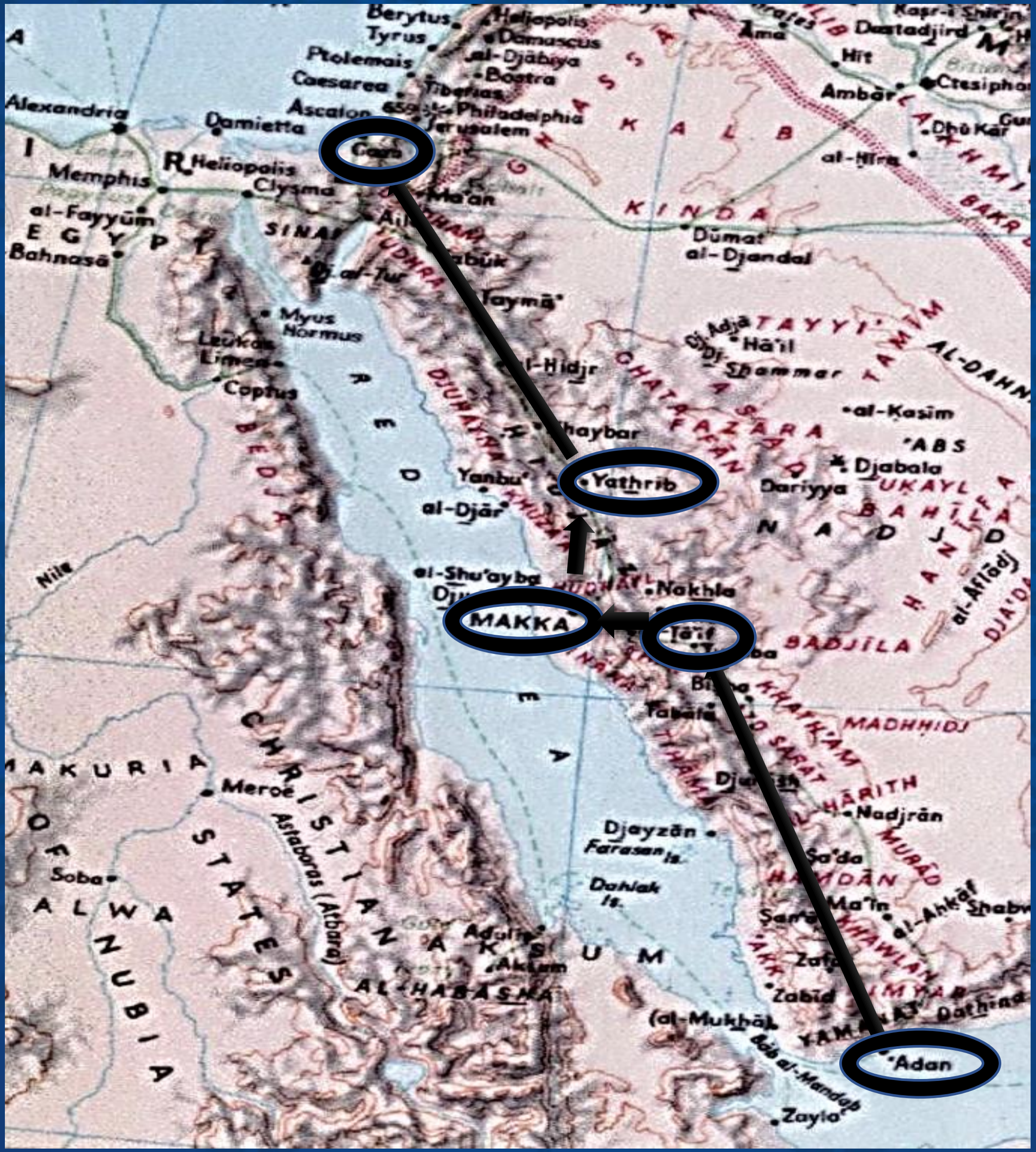
’Trade Route Theory’ (Montgomery Watt) (problems)



’Trade Route Theory’ (Montgomery Watt) (problems)

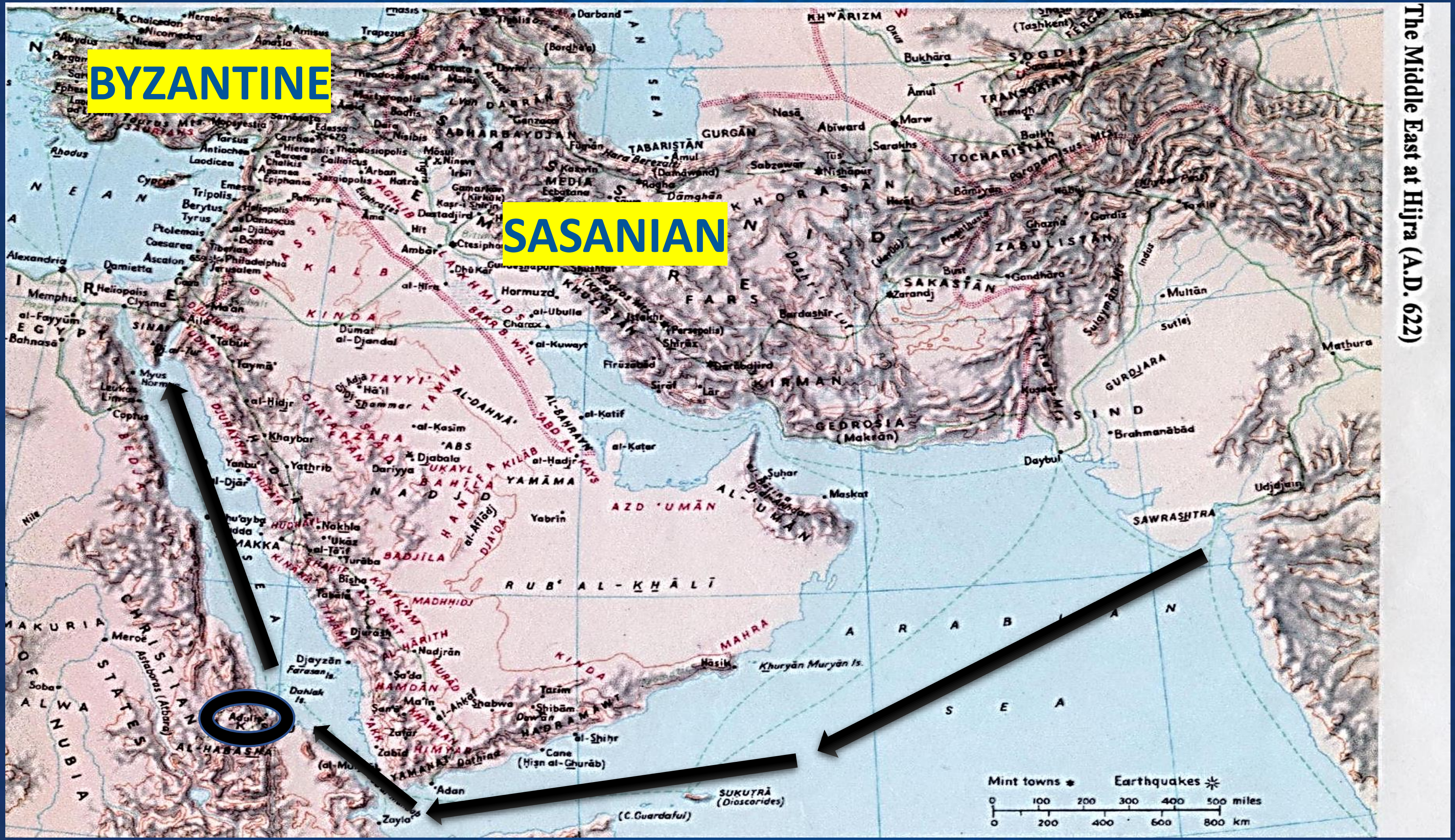


’Trade Route Theory’ (Deviation down to Mecca) (problem 1)



’Trade Route Theory’ (Montgomery Watt) (problem 2)

’Trade Route Theory’ (Solved!)



Earliest literary reference to Mecca's existence: Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius Continuatio Byzantia Arabica

During the early reign of caliph Hisham

- **741 AD!**
- The earliest maps don't show MECCA until…. **900 AD!**
  – Cröne: Greek trading documents refer to the towns of Ta'if (South-East of Mecca), Yathrib (later Medina), Kaybar , but never Mecca**!**

Modern Mecca

<u>Royal Clock Tower</u>
(Abraj Al-Bait Towers)

-

- The World's 4th Highest building
- The World's Largest Clock face
- To replace London's GMT, & 'Big Ben'

Future Mecca

Why this Sudden Expansion?

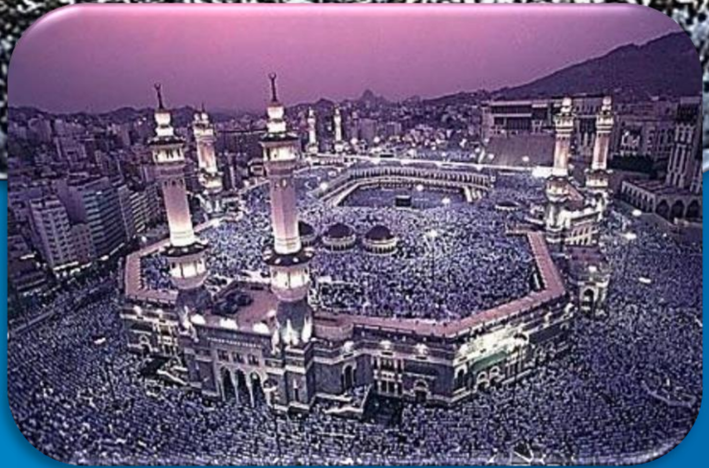
“Destroying the Evidence”?

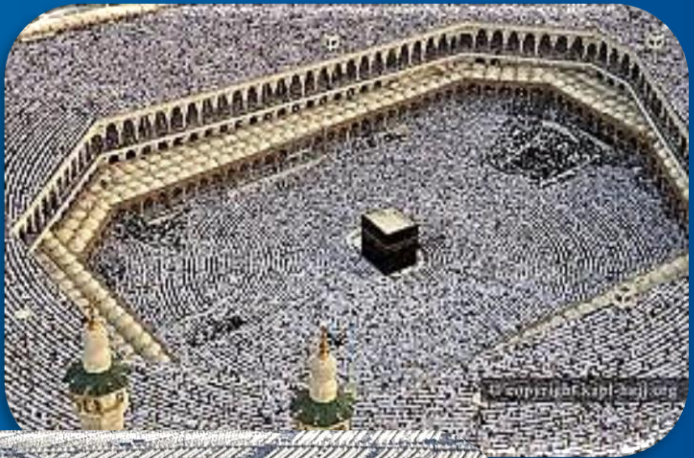
What about any Archaeological finds?

To date, no ruins or artifacts have been found!

Problem 3: **The Qibla**

The direction of Prayer = Always to <u>Mecca</u>!





How to find the Qibla

Always towards the Kaa’ba in Mecca

Surah 2:143 - 150

Qur'anic authority for changing the Qibla

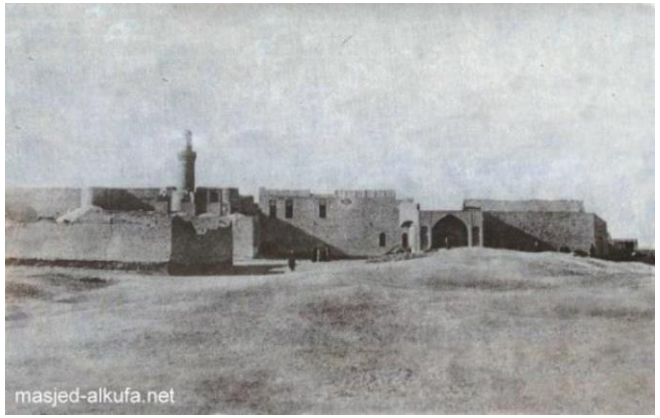
- The direction of the Qibla is changed (**624 AD**), but it doesn't say from where
- Archaeology supports this change
  - but not from Jerusalem to Mecca, as Muslims suggest
  - But to **someplace further north?**!
  - And much, much later!
  - So, where is it?

Qibla – Archaeological evidence

Creswell & Fehervari (1905)

- They looked at ancient mosques in the Middle East

- **Umayyad mosques in Iraq (7th – early 8th c.)**
  - **‘Fustat’ (641 - outside Cairo)**
  - **‘Wasit’ mosque (706 - Iraq)**
  - **‘Kufa’ mosque (Iraq)**



(Creswell 1969:37,137ff,150 & 1989:40; Fehervari 1961:89; Crone-Cook 1977:23,173)
(al-Baladhuri's Futuh, ed. by de Goeje 1866:276; Crone 1980:1)

Note the Qibla directions…

Follow the **black** arrows

- **Wassit** is facing **West**
- **Kufa** is facing **West**
- **Fustat** is facing **East**
- They should all be facing **South** towards **Mecca**
- **Jerusalem?**

Qibla – Documentary evidence

Christian Writer: **Jacob of Edessa** (705 AD)

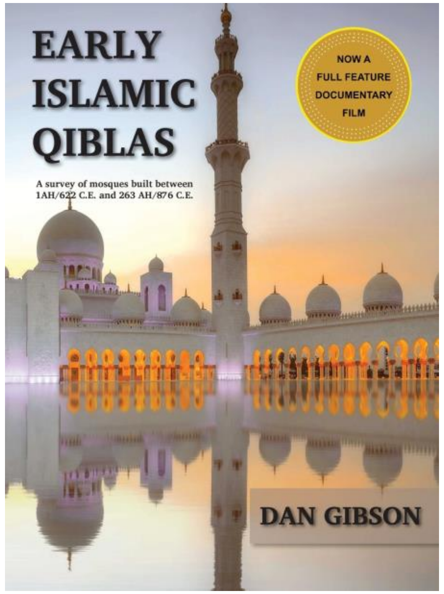
He refers to the ‘Mahgraye,’ saying,

"So from all this it is clear that it is ***not to the south*** *that the* ***Jews*** *and the* ***Mahgraye*** *here in the regions of Syria* ***pray****, but* ***towards Jerusalem*** *or* ***the Ka’ba****, the patriarchal places of their races."* (Crone-Cook 1977:24)

Dan Gibson's Discoveries

'The Sacred City' (May 2016) & 'Early Islamic Qiblas' (May 2017)

- Gibson took photos of all of the earliest mosques
- He noted their Qiblas
- Their direction of prayer



Let's look at his findings…

Looking at Numerous Mosques

All studied by Dan Gibson between 1979 - 2004

Note: All subsequent Pictures on the mosques and the Qiblas are taken from **'The Sacred City'** & **'Earlier Islamic Qiblas'** (by Dan Gibson)

How Dan found and marked the Qiblas

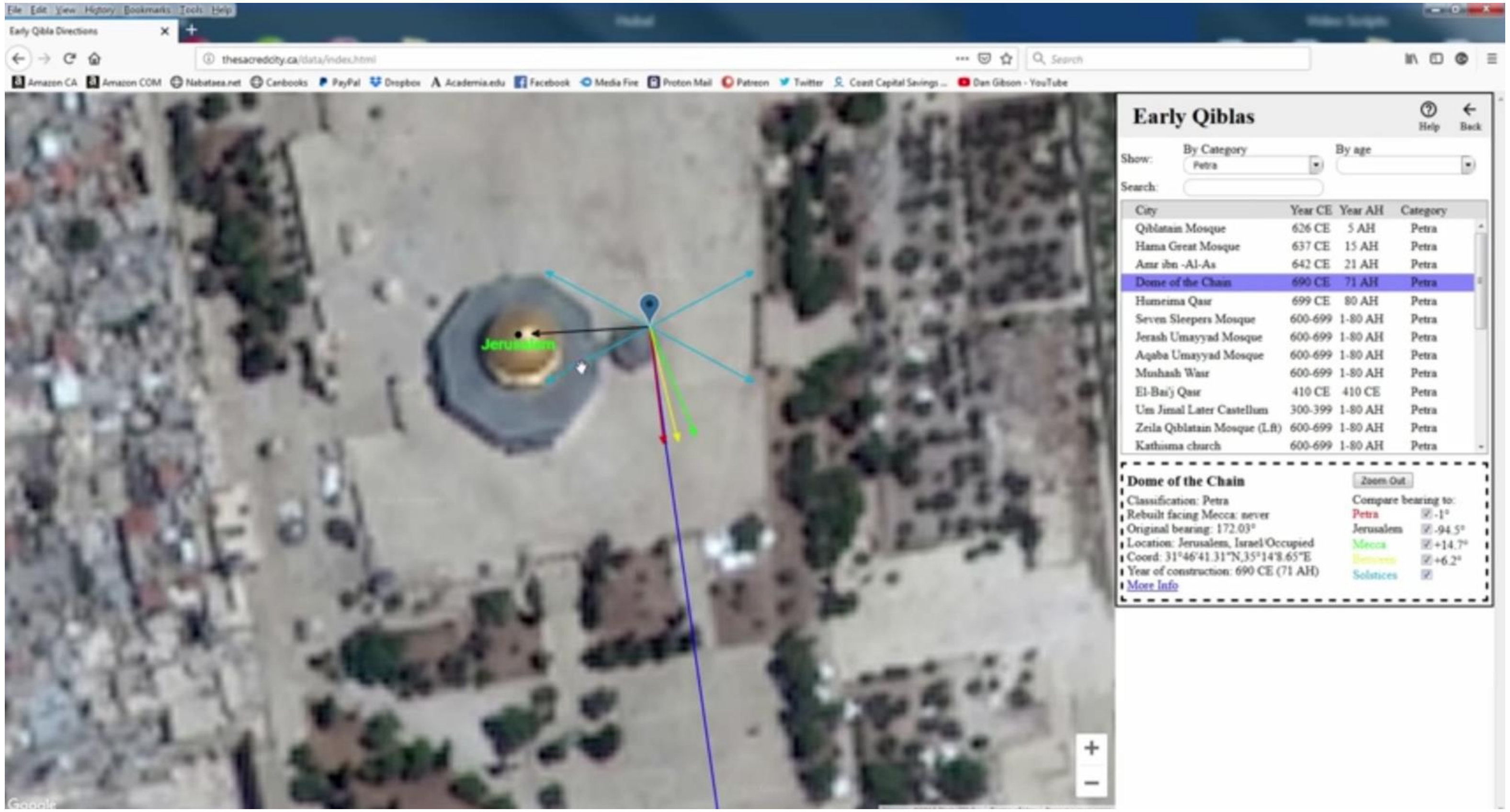
- On the ground Dan got **maps of the area**, accumulated **historical data of the area**, and **measured the GPS coordinates** from **outside and inside the buildings**
- He had to find where the earliest **Qibla walls** were, or where the ***Mihrabs* were**
- Dan didn't use **Google Earth** to do his measurements, because it uses square maps and overlays them onto a round earth; so, they would be too inaccurate
- He used the Japanese created **'Advanced Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer'** (**ASTER** satellites), a satellite taking **260,000 photos every 2 days, with reference points just 96 feet apart**
- *The Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer obtains high-resolution (**15 to 90 square meters per pixel**) images of the Earth in **14 different wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum**, ranging from visible to thermal infrared light. **Scientists use ASTER data to create detailed maps of land surface** temperature, emissivity, reflectance, and elevation. **ASTER is the only high spatial resolution instrument on the Terra platform. It collects an average of 8 minutes of data per orbit***
- Often, he would use the **roof lines which paralleled the Qibla wall** and used that line to find the coordinates from the ASTER satellite in space which would look down onto that building

Dan’s Qibla tools

- Use the tools on Dan’s web site which is at: http://thesacredcity.ca
- The **tools** here help you find every known early mosque’s qibla in the first 200 years of Islam. Go to **Data**, and then ‘**Early Qibla Tool**’. Also use Papers and Maps.
- **Yamama al Kharaj mosque** is completely **covered with sand**, so **how can we find the Qibla**? Those who researched this mosque then covered it with sand, but on Dan’s site you can zoom in and find the **original pictures** of that mosque taken by the researchers, and then **see where the Qibla was**, as it is uncovered in the picture.
- This mosque’s qibla helps us to understand that the ‘in between’ qiblas are all pointing half-way between Petra and Mecca, because it is **the only one pointing slightly north**.

Solstice Lines

- Muslims have suggested the **differing Qiblas** have to do with **solstice lines**.
- Dan has now included Solstice lines, and has now added them to the qibla tools to prove that **these earliest mosques did not follow the solstice lines**.



Mosques with no early Qiblas?

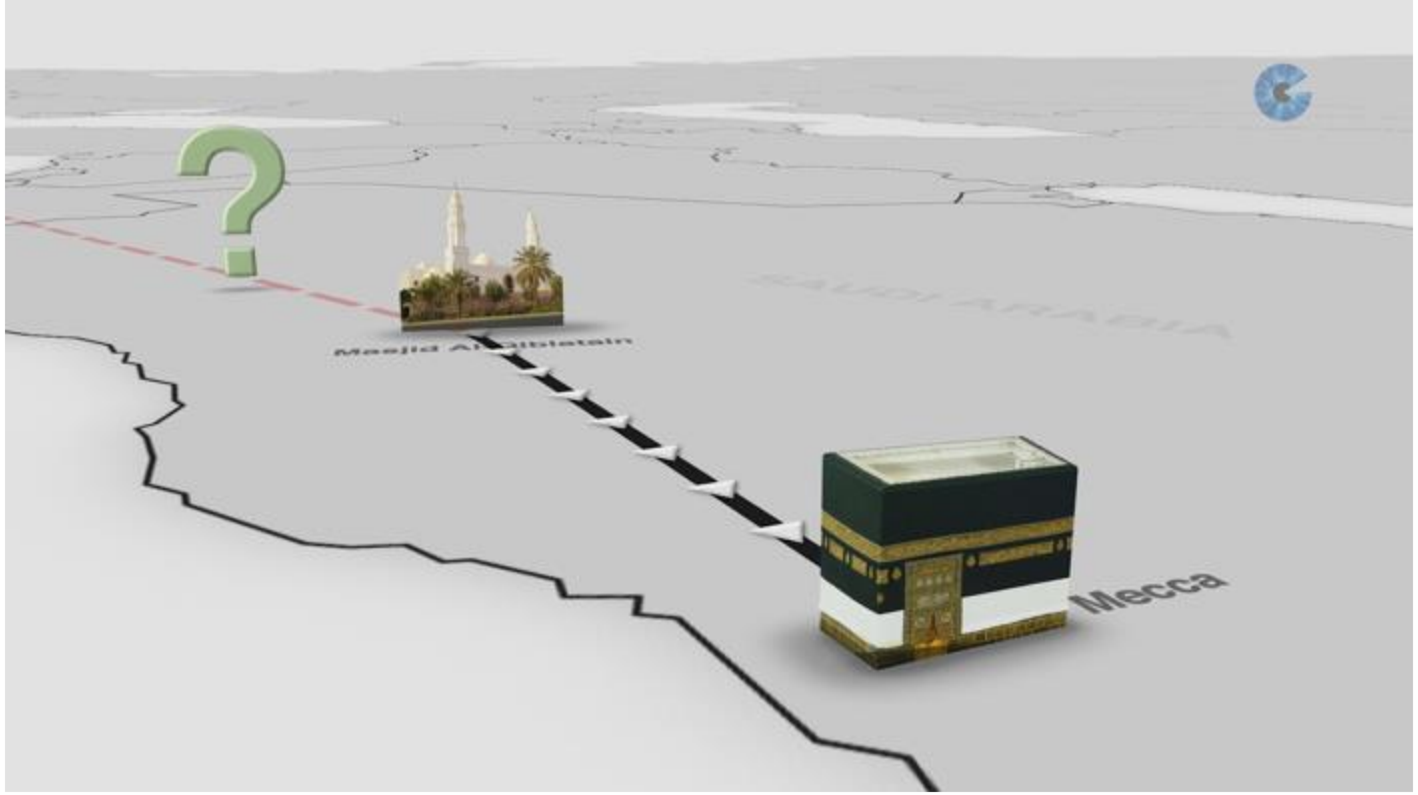
- Many early mosques don’t have qiblas to help us because they have been rebuilt many centuries later, and the **original floor plans and structures have been lost**
- Other mosques have been **rebuilt**, but we **can see where the original plans** still are
- The **Qiblatain mosque in Medina**, shows the original qibla (**red**) once it was uncovered in **1987** when new buildings were going to be built

1) Mosque of the 2 Qiblas
Medina (626 AD)

Was renovated in 1987
revealing an older Northern Qibla!

Mosque of the 2 Qiblas (626 AD)

Changed to Mecca later, but from where?



Qiblatain Mosque

To find the earlier Qibla, follow the red arrow…

2) Great Mosque of Guangzhou, China (627 AD)

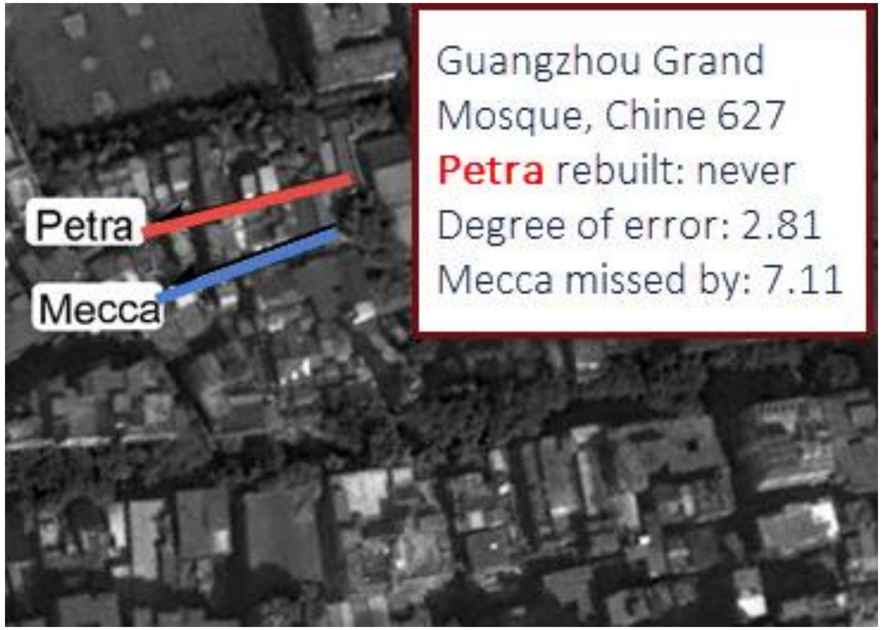
Built in 627 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 2.81**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 4.86**
- **Mecca degree of error = 7.11**

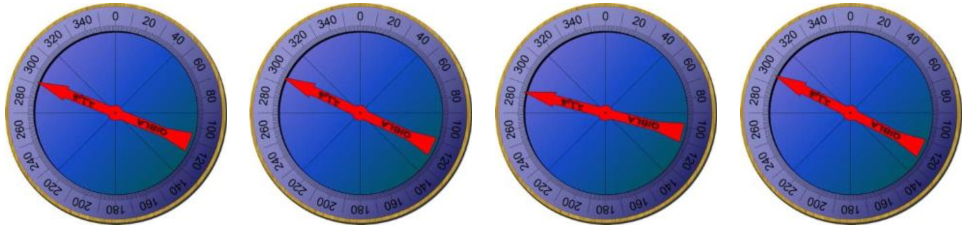
Closest city for the Qibla = Petra

QIBLA # 1

Note: This is the first example of a **1st Qibla**, with a mosque which is built **facing** **Petra**

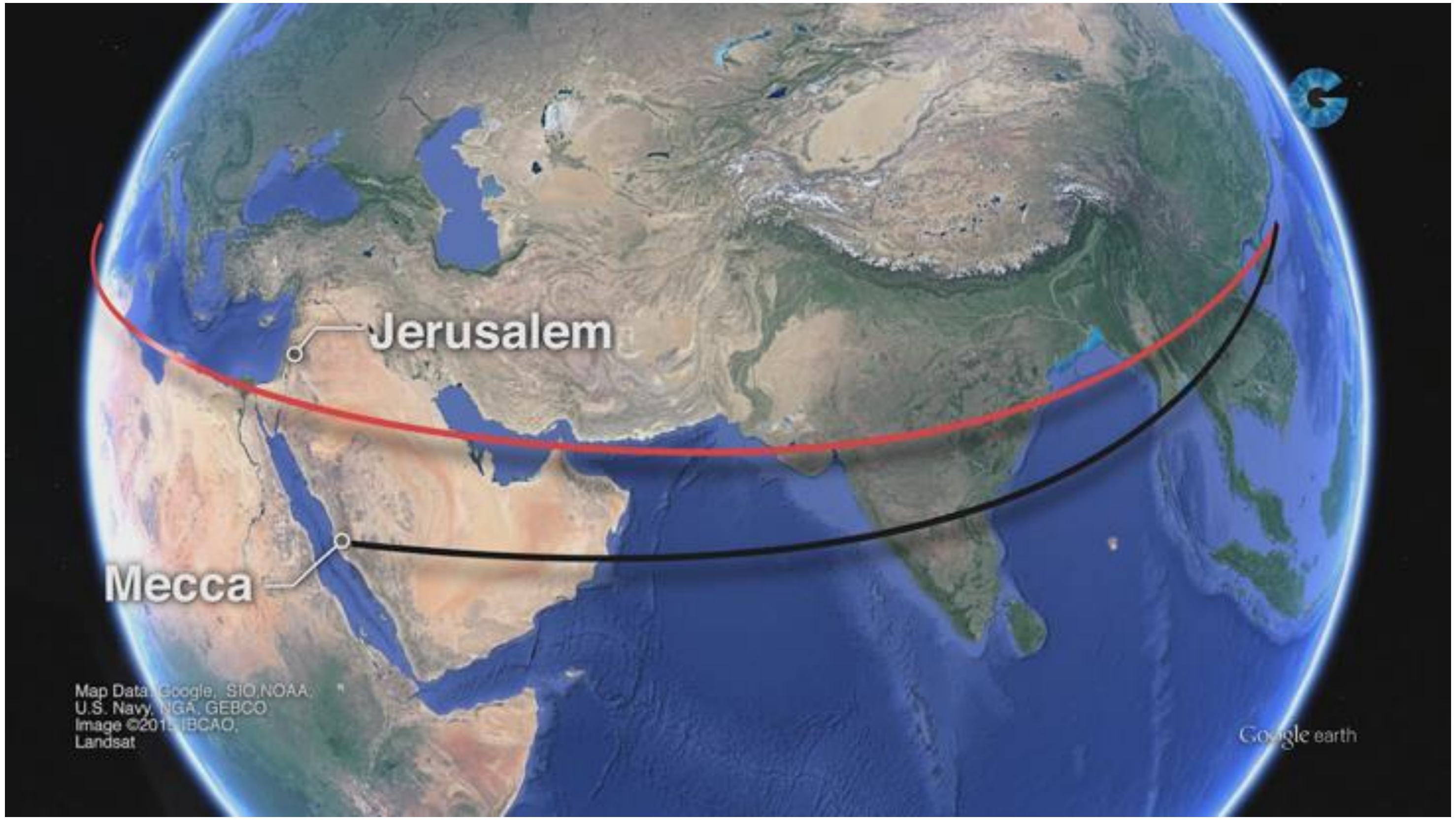


Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
291.66°	294.97°	284.55°	296.52°
Misses by:	2.81	7.11	4.86



Guangzhou's Qibla trajectory

Follow the red line…It intersects **Petra**, and not Mecca



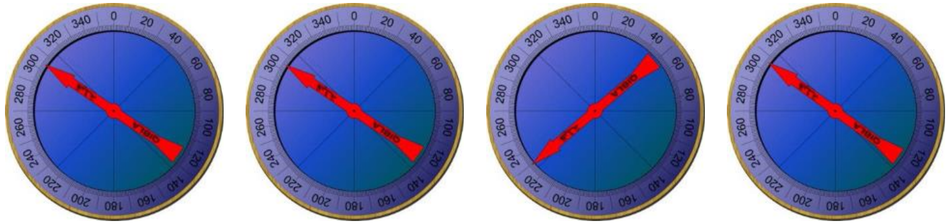
3) Cherman Juma Masjid India (629 AD)

Built in 629 AD

- Petra Degree of error = .26
- Jerusalem D of E = 1.65
- Mecca degree of error = 75.01

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra

Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
304.32°	304.06°	229.31°	305.97°
Misses by:	.26°	75.01°	1.65°



4) Jami’ Hama al’Kabir Syria (637 AD)

Built in 637 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = .61**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 7.17**
- **Mecca degree of error = 25.81**

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra

Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
193.87	193.26	168.06	201.04
Misses by:	0.61	25.81	7.17

5) Fustat Mosque Egypt (642 AD)

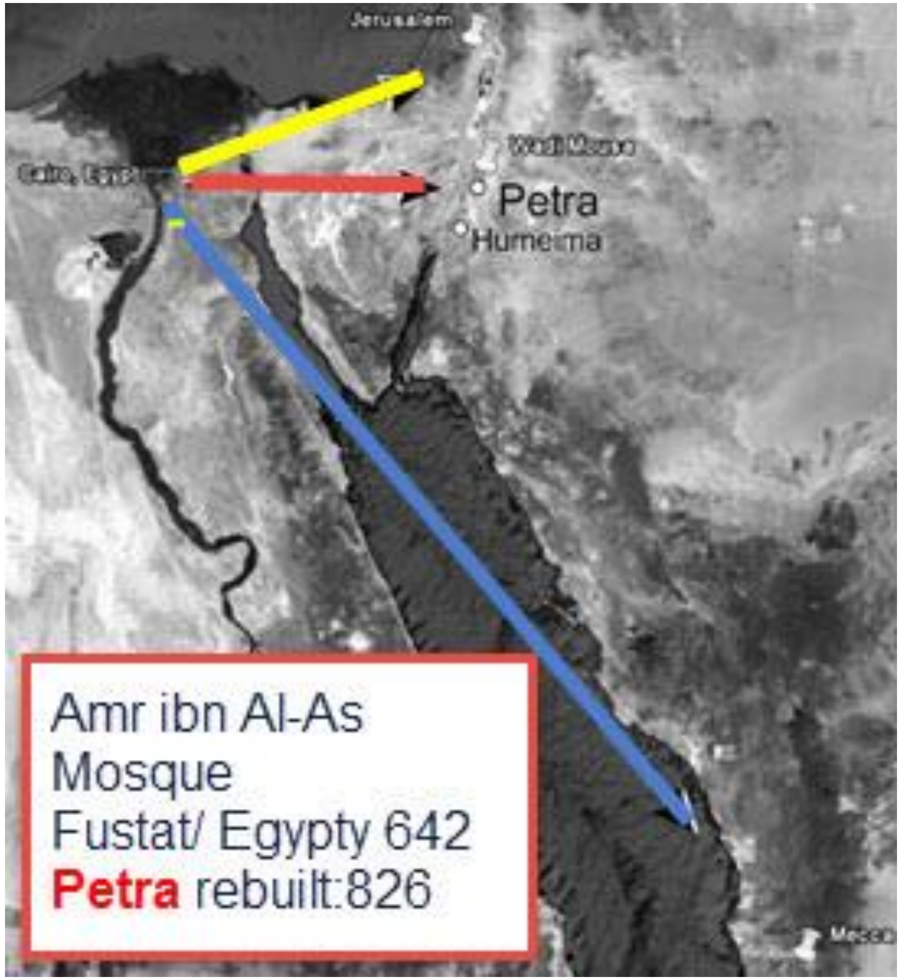
Built in 642 AD

- **Petra 'Degree of error' = ?**
- **Jerusalem D of E = ?**
- **Mecca D of E = ?**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>

Rebuilt in 826 AD

The description of the original floorplan showed a Qibla to the East, and later towards the South (noted by Creswell & Fehervari in 1905)



6) 'Dome of the Rock' Jerusalem (690 AD)

Built in 690 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = ?**
- **Jerusalem D of E = ?**
- **Mecca D of E = ?**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>

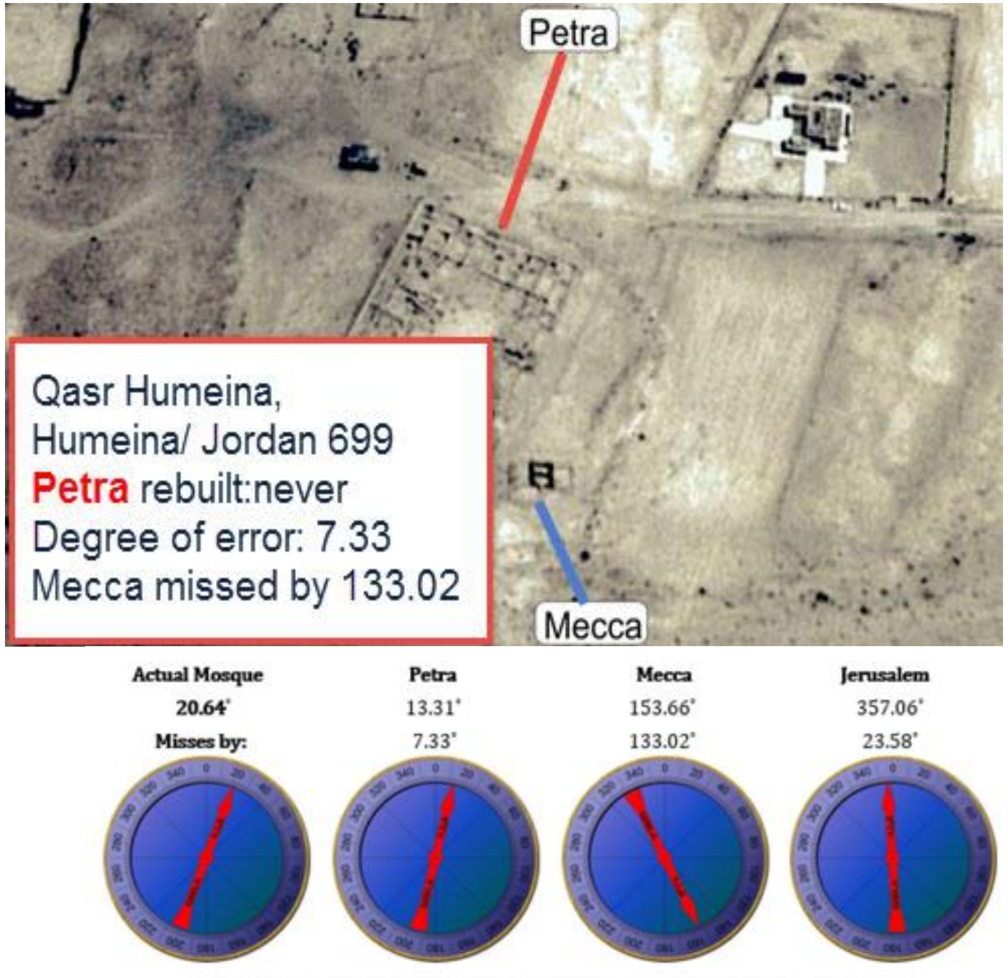
[Note: The entire citadel, including both the <u>Dome of the Rock</u> – 690 AD, and the <u>Al Aqsa Mosque</u> – 709 AD, are facing **Petra**, even today]

7) Humeina Mosque Jordan (699 AD)

Built in 699 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 7.33**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 23.58**
- **Mecca D of E = 133.02**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>



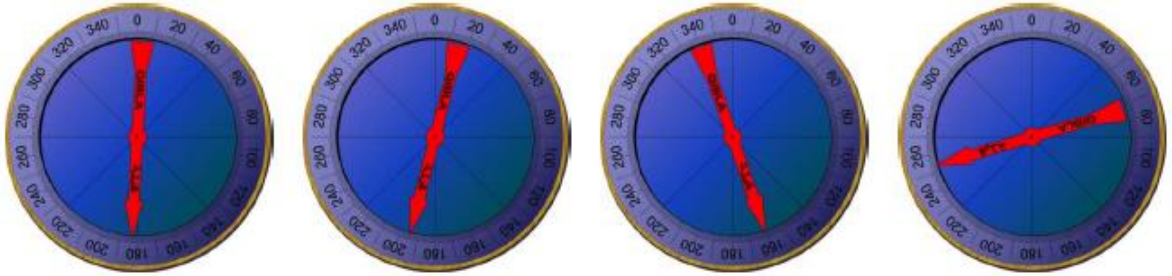
8) Amman Mosque Jordan (701 AD)

Built in 701 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 11.34**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 70.51**
- **Mecca degree of error = 22.28**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>

Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
183.10°	194.44°	160.82°	253.61°
Misses by:	11.34°	22.28°	70.51°

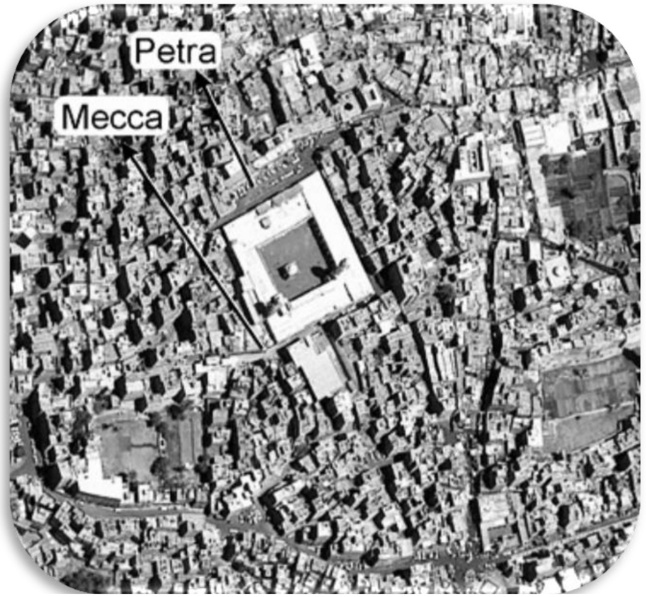


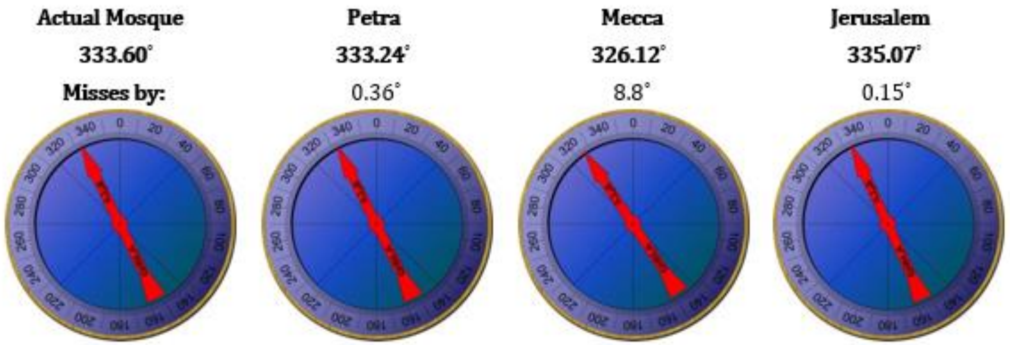
9) Grand Mosque Sa’ana Yemen (705 AD)

Built in 705 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = .36**
- **Jerusalem D of E = .15**
- **Mecca D of E = 8.8**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>



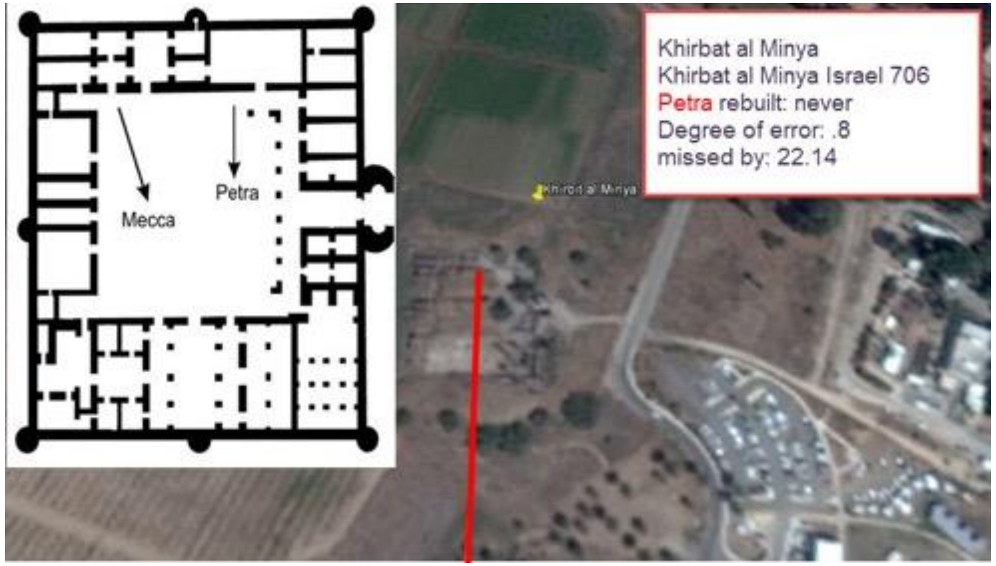


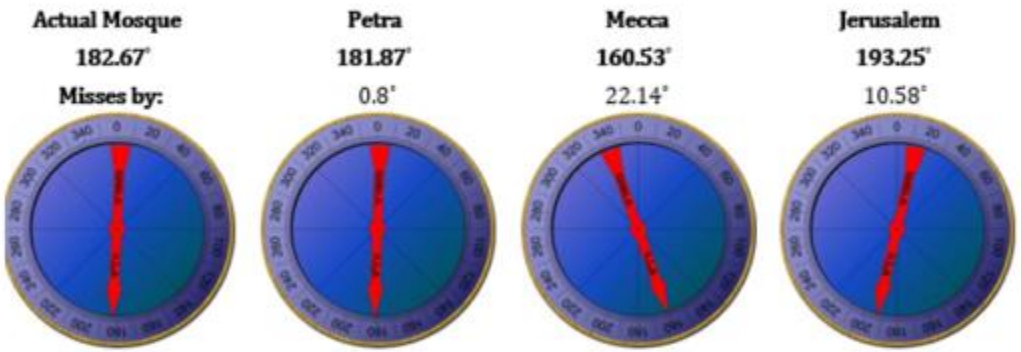
10) Khirbat al Minya Mosque Israel (706 AD)

Built in 706 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = .8**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 10.58**
- **Mecca D of E = 22.14**

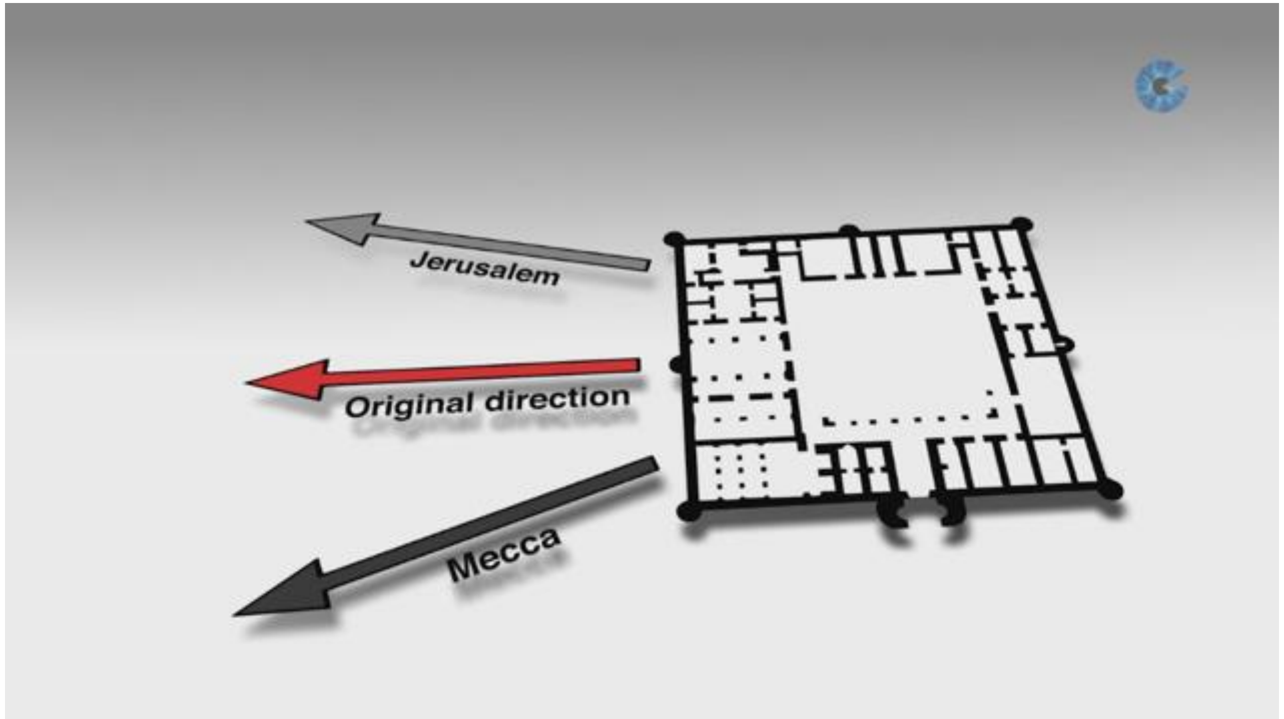
Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>



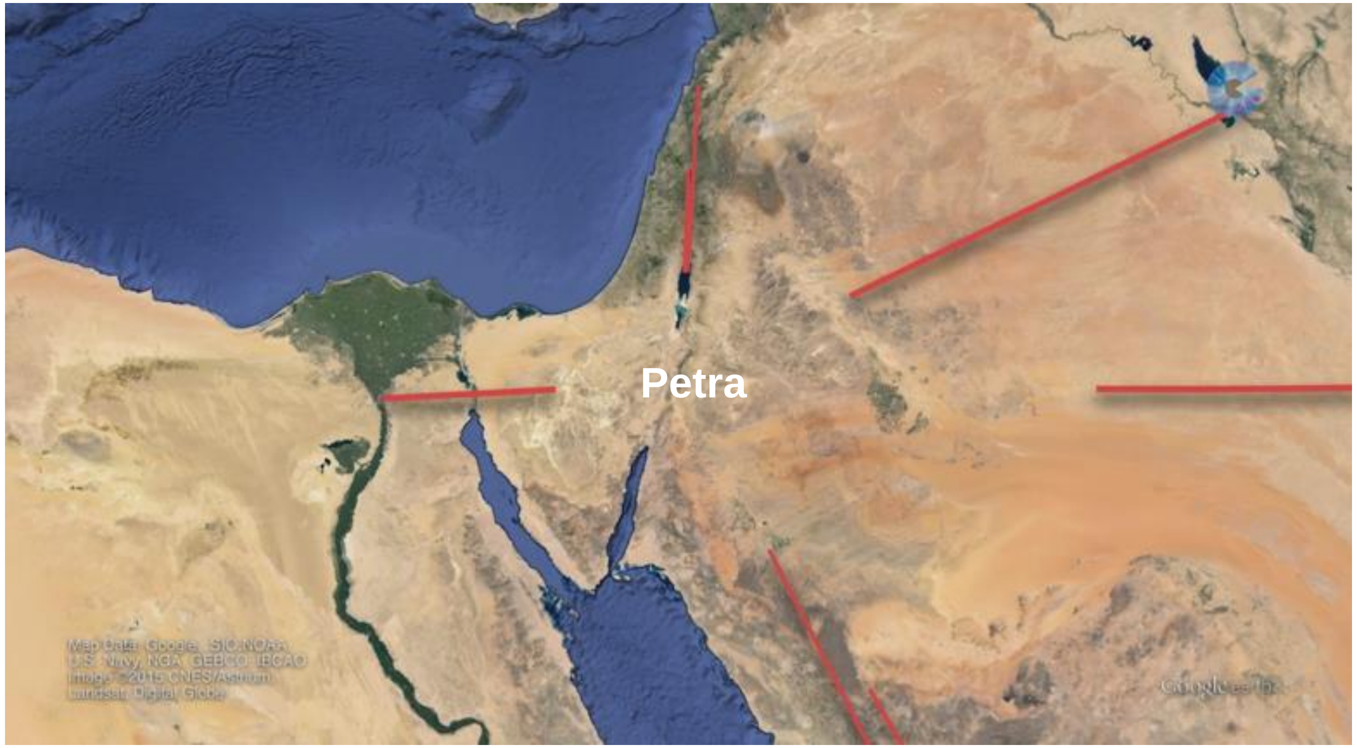


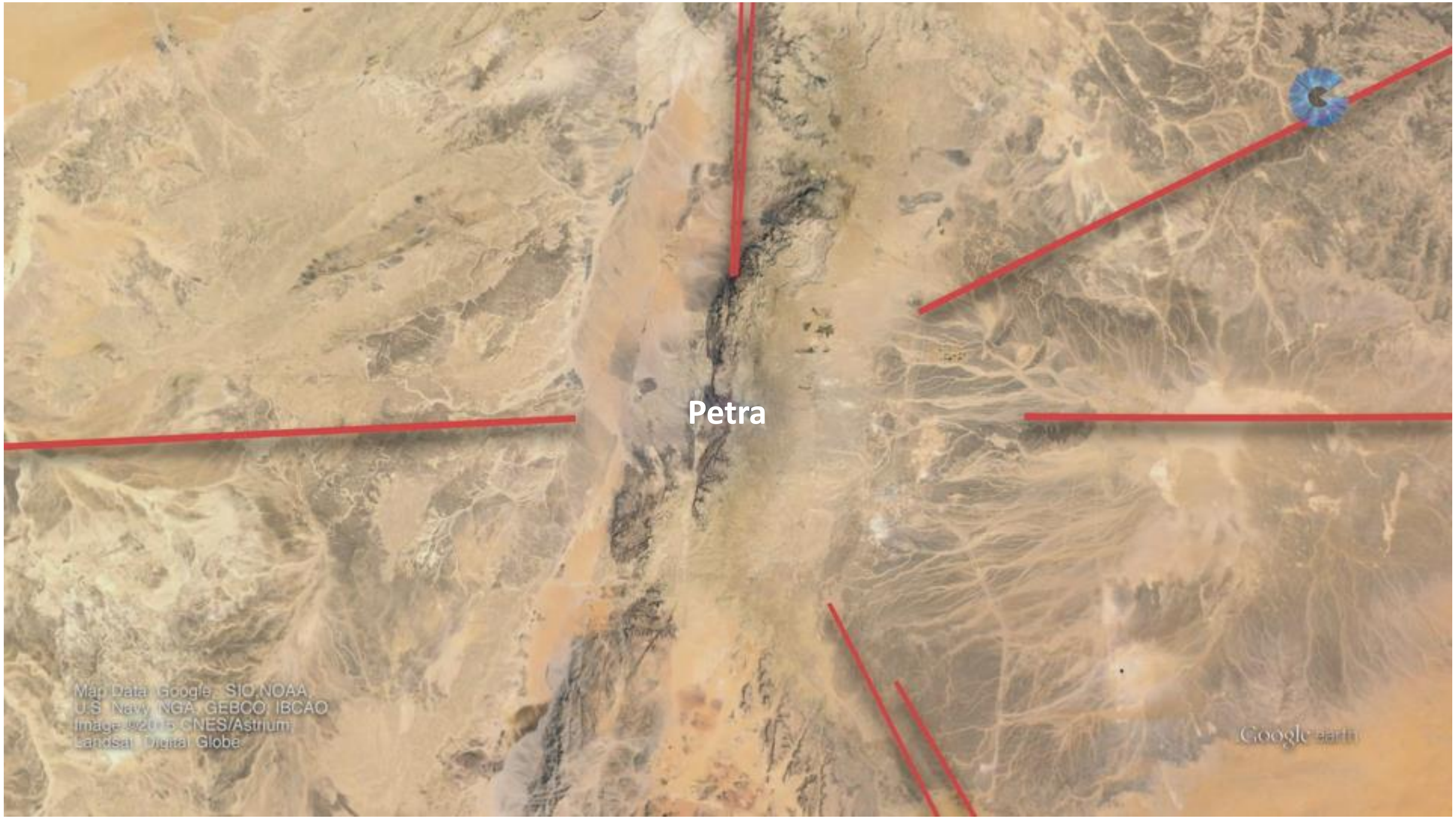
Khirbat al Minya (cont.)

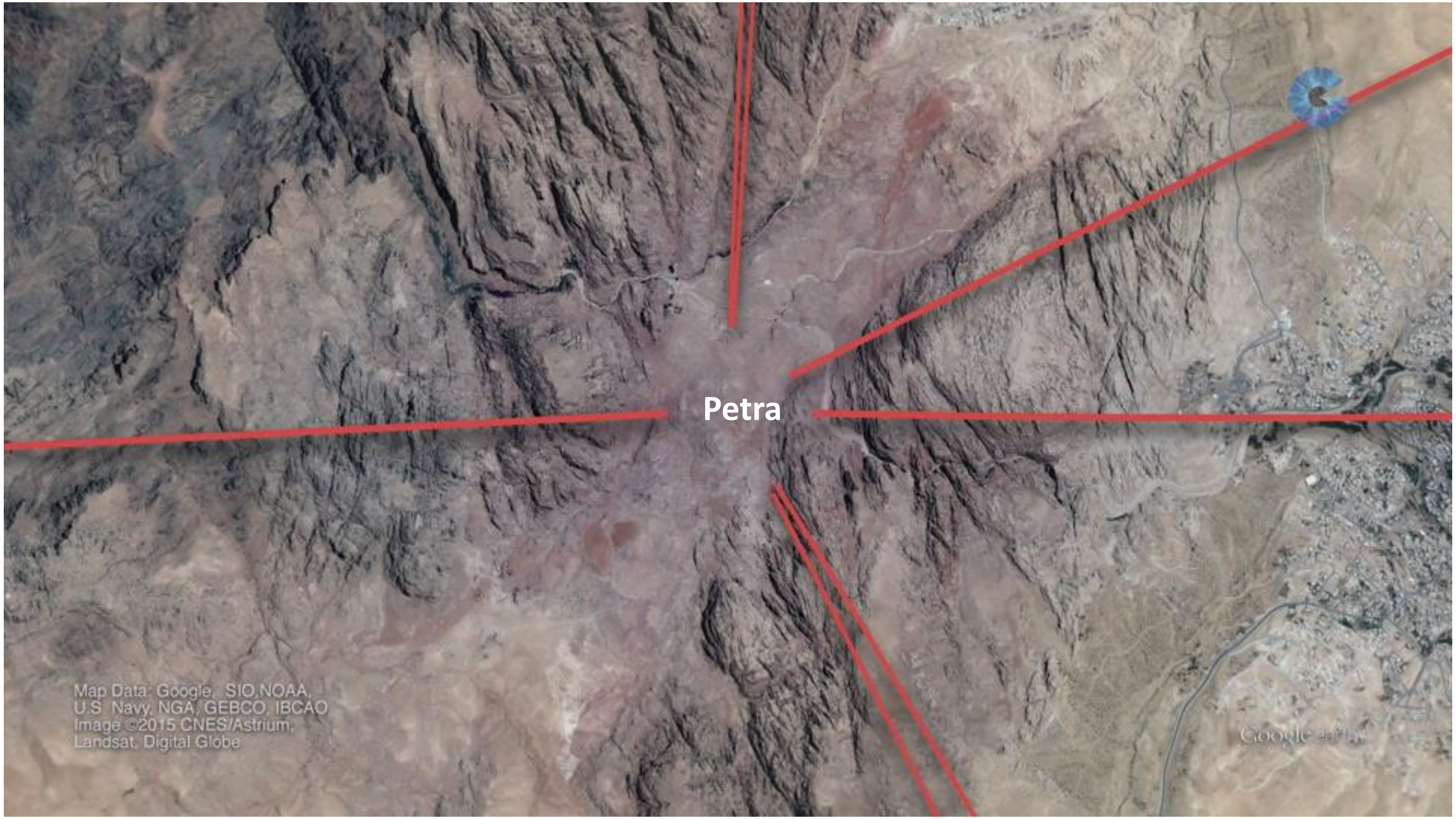
Its Qibla is not towards Mecca, nor Jerusalem, but towards **Petra**



Notice how up to **706 AD** all the Qiblas face **Petra**



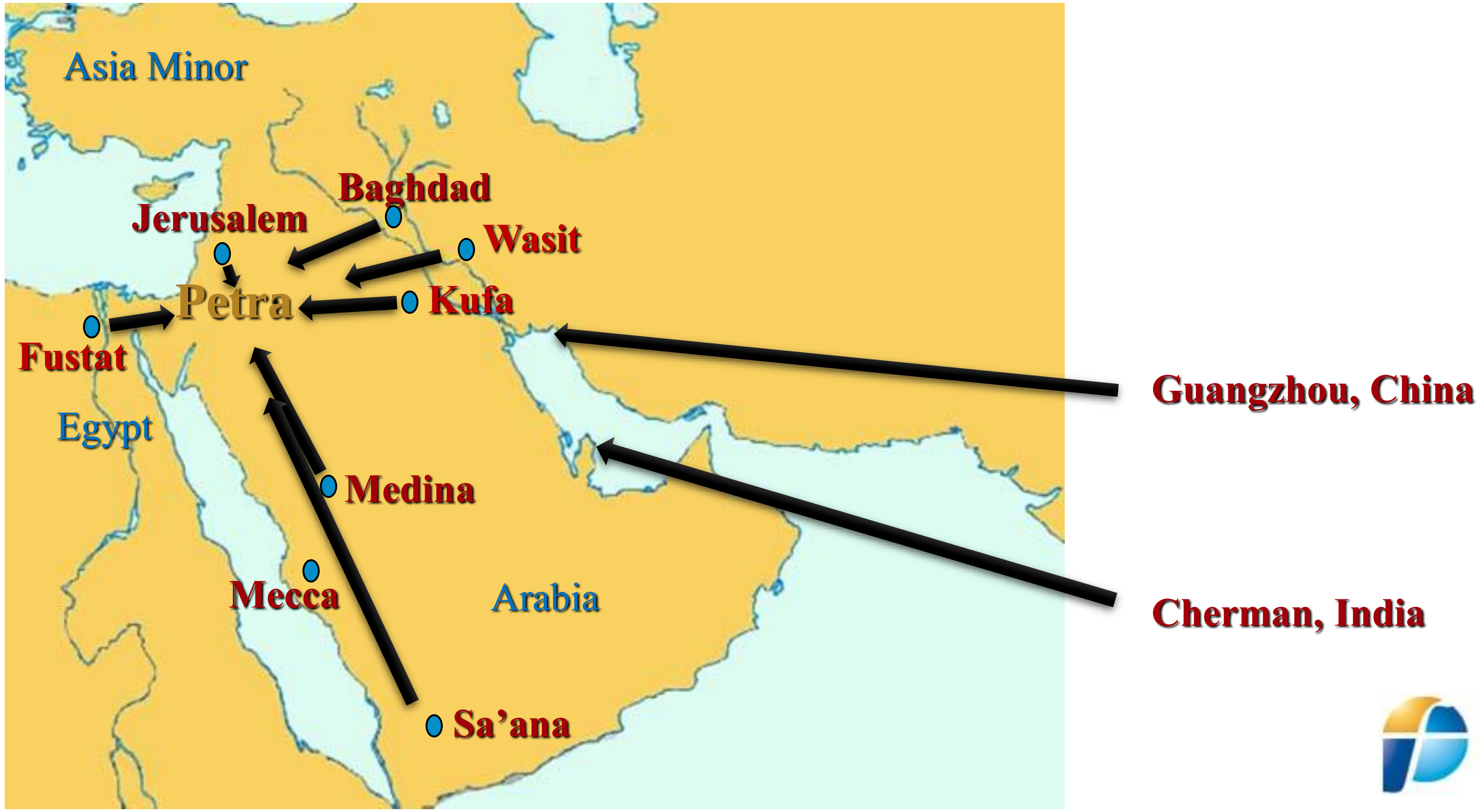

Petra
Map Data Google, SIO NOAA
U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO, IBCAO
Landsat Digital Globe
Google earth

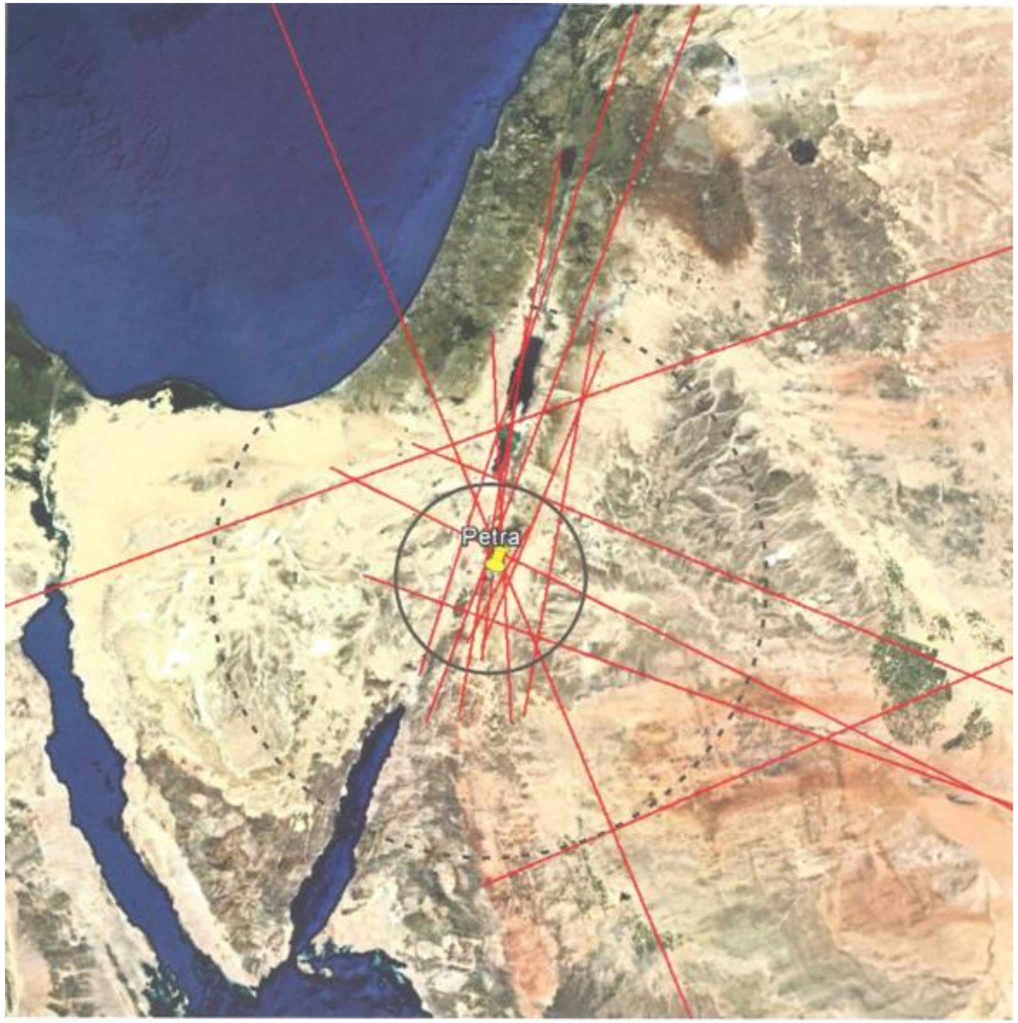

Petra
Map Data: Google, SIO,NOAA,
U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO, IBCAO
Image ©2015 CNES/Astrium,
Landsat, Digital Globe

Why Petra, and not Mecca?

Note: Every Qibla from 624 – 706 is facing **Petra**

- Medina – 626 AD
- Guangzhou, China – 627 AD
- Cherman, India - 629 AD
- Jami’ Hama al’Kabir, Syria – 637 AD
- Fustat, Egypt – 642
- Dome of the Rock, Israel – 690 AD
- Humeina, Jordan – 699 AD
- Amman, Jordan – 701 AD
- Grand Sa’ana, Yemen – 705 AD
- Khirbat al Minya, Israel – 706 AD



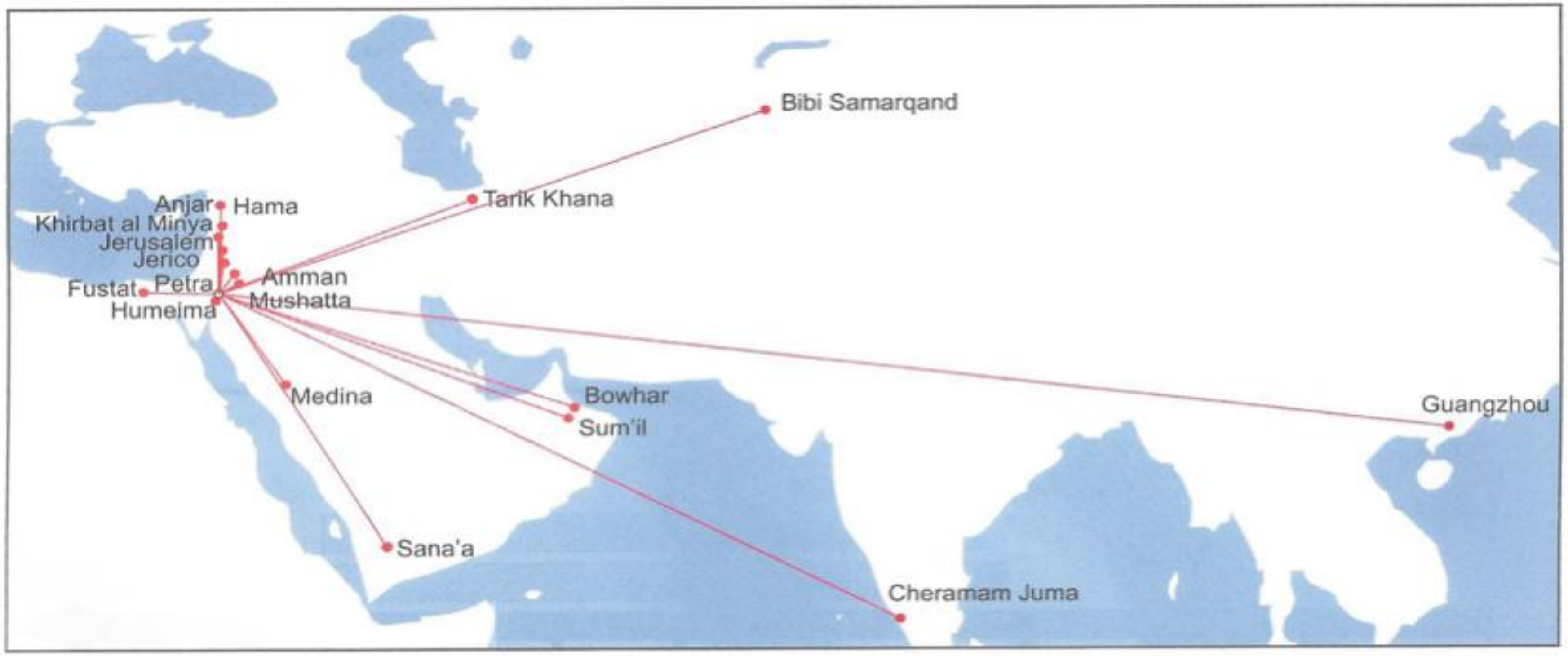


Note: All 17 **Petran** Qiblas (except for 2) fall within the **45 mile** dotted circle, proving how accurate they were.

This will become important later….

Qibla #1 = Petra

All of the Qiblas face towards Petra up to 706 AD!

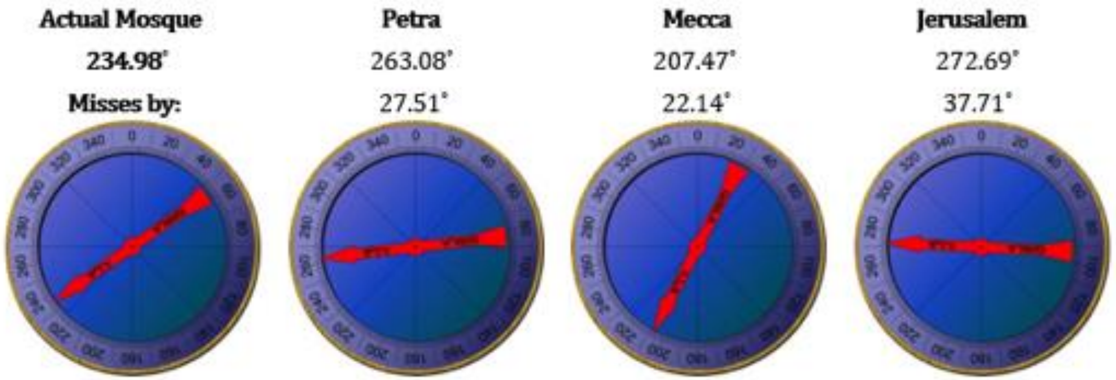


11) Wasit Great Mosque Iraq (706 AD)

Built in 706 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 27.51**
- **Jerusalem Degree of Error = 37.71**
- **Mecca Degree of Error = 22.14**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

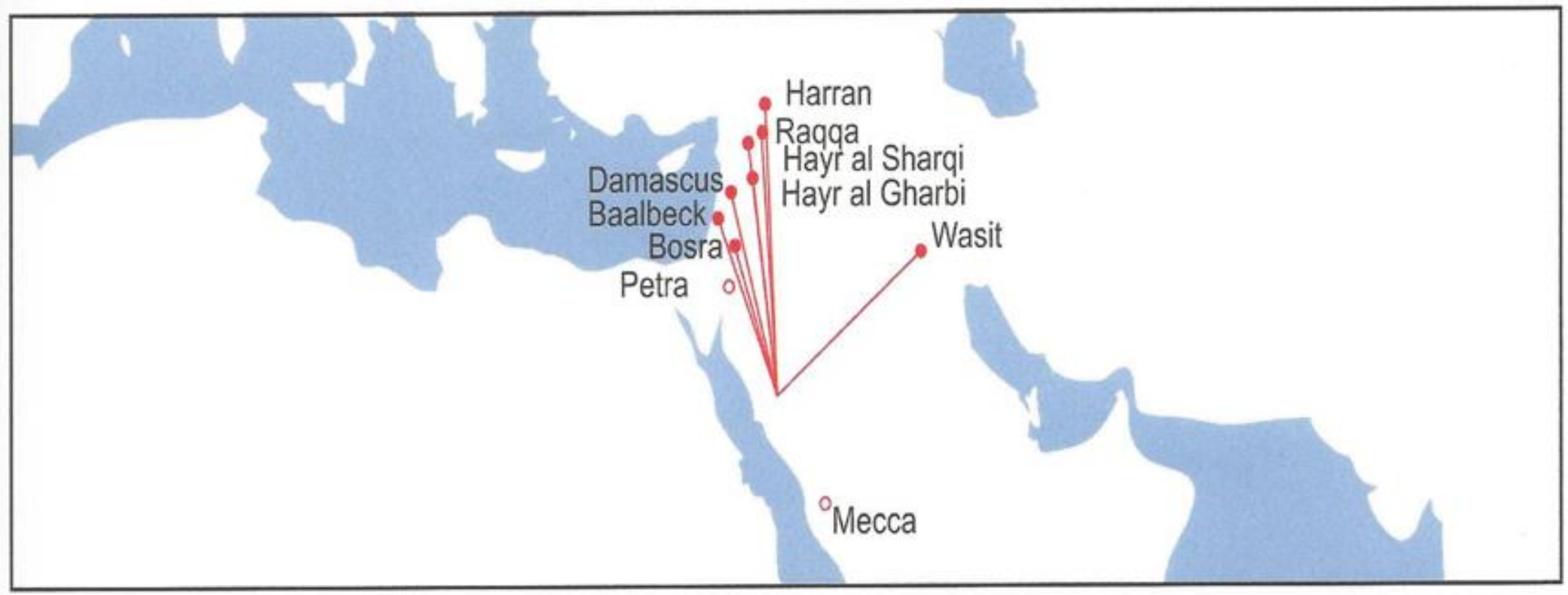


QIBLA # 2

Note: This is the first example of a **2nd Qibla**, with a mosque which is built **between Petra** and **Mecca**, possibly by Al-Hajjaj

Qibla #2 = Between

The Qiblas then point between Petra and Mecca from 706 AD – 772 AD…why?

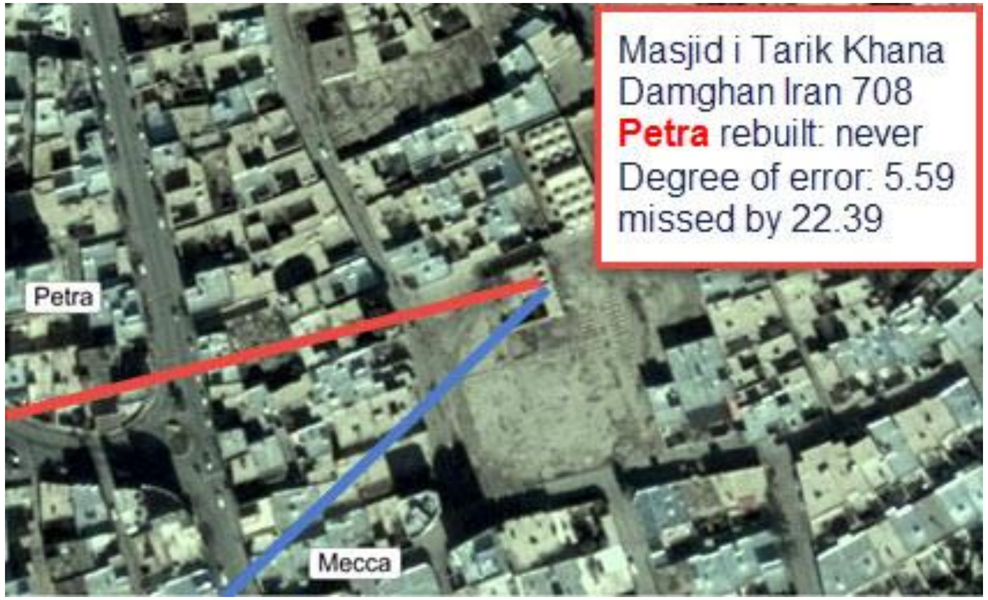


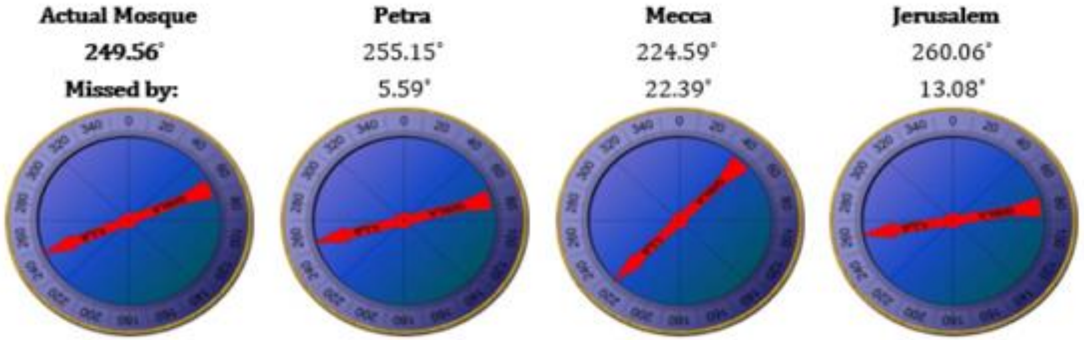
12) Masjid I Tarik Iran (708 AD)

Built in 708 AD

- Petra Degree of error = 5.59
- Jerusalem D of E = 13.08
- Mecca D of E = 22.39

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra



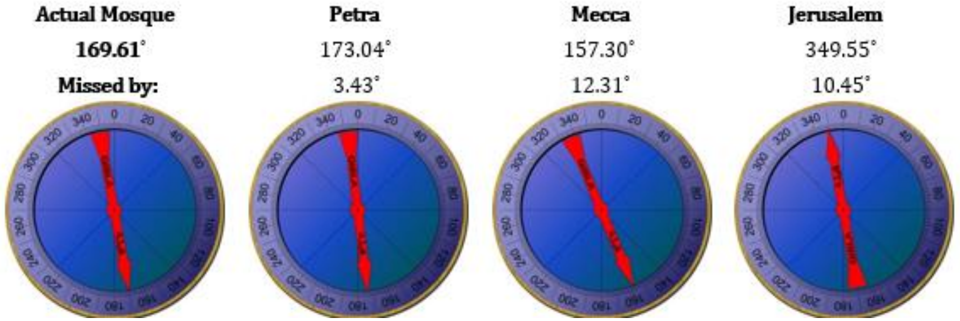


13) Al Aqsa Mosque
Jerusalem, Israel (709 AD)

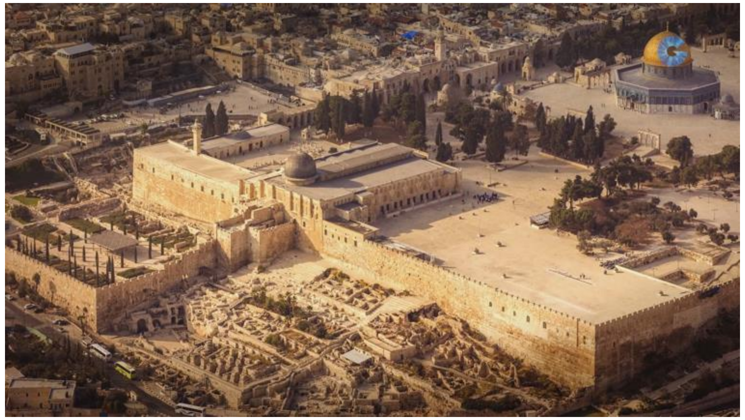
Built in 709 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 3.43**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 10.45**
- **Mecca D of E = 12.31**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>



The Alaqsa Mosque (709 AD)
The Dome of the Rock (690 AD)



Note: As we noticed earlier, the entire citadel, including both the Dome of the Rock – 690 AD, and the Al Aqsa Mosque – 709 AD, are facing **Petra**, even today (see the **Red** line at right)

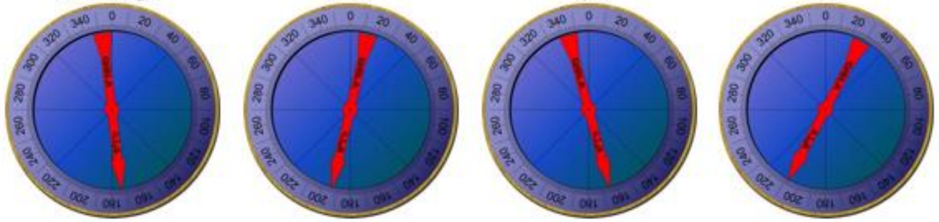
14) Jami'al – Umawi al-Kabir Damascus, Syria (709 AD)

Built in 709 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 20.25**
- **<u>Between</u> Degree of Error = 1.75**
- **Mecca D of E = 8.33**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Between
177.21°	193.25°	164.67°	178.96°
Missed by:	20.25°	8.33°	1.75°

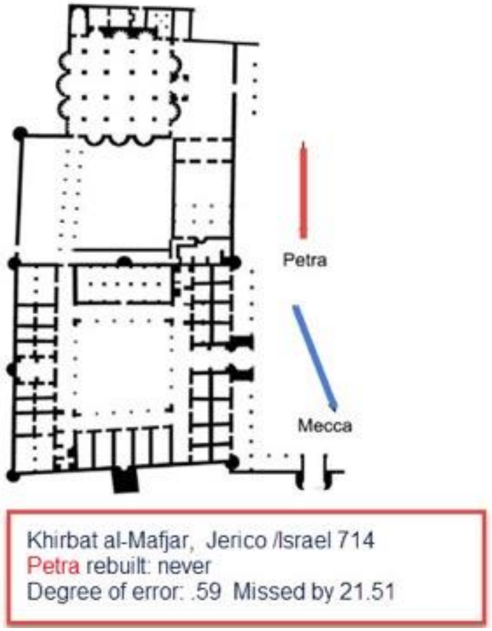


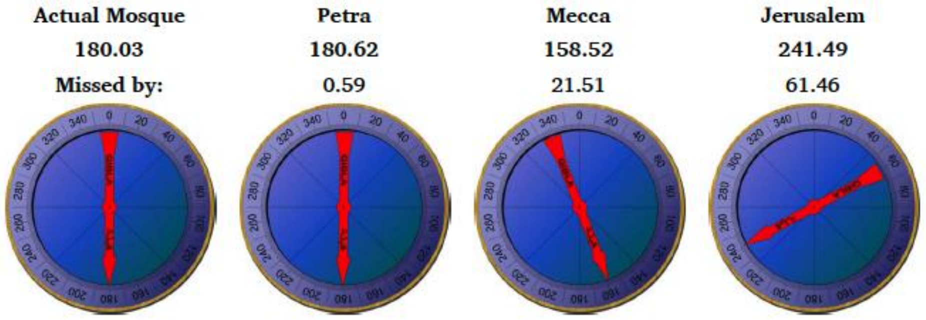
15) Khirbat al Mafjar Jericho, Israel (714 AD)

Built in 714 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = .59**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 61.46**
- **Mecca D of E = 21.51**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>



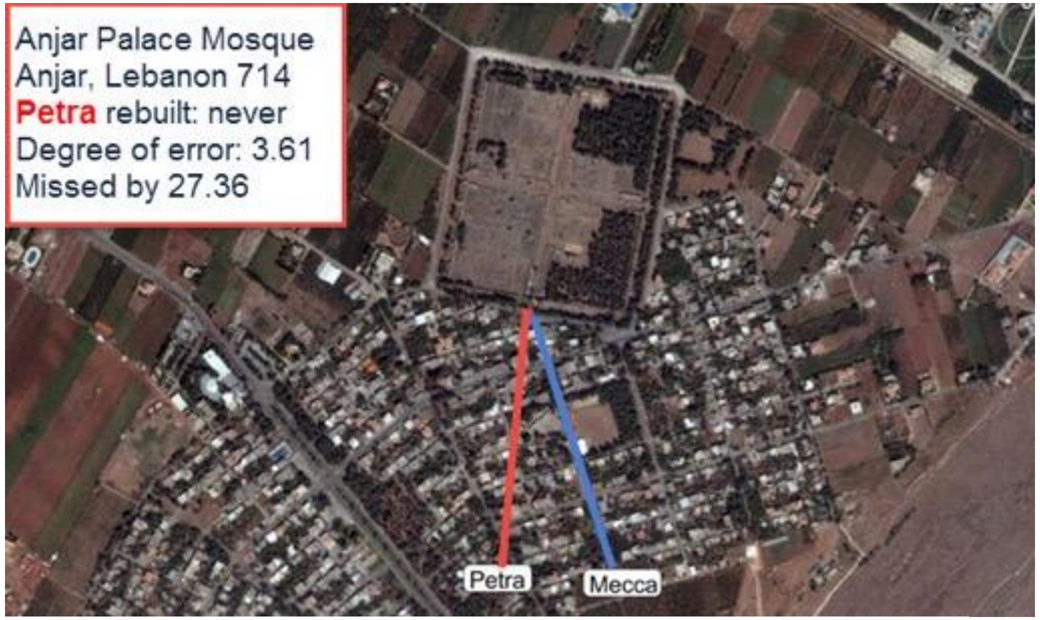


16) Anjar Mosque Lebanon (714 AD)

Built in 714 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 3.61**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 6.17**
- **Mecca D of E = 27.36**

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra



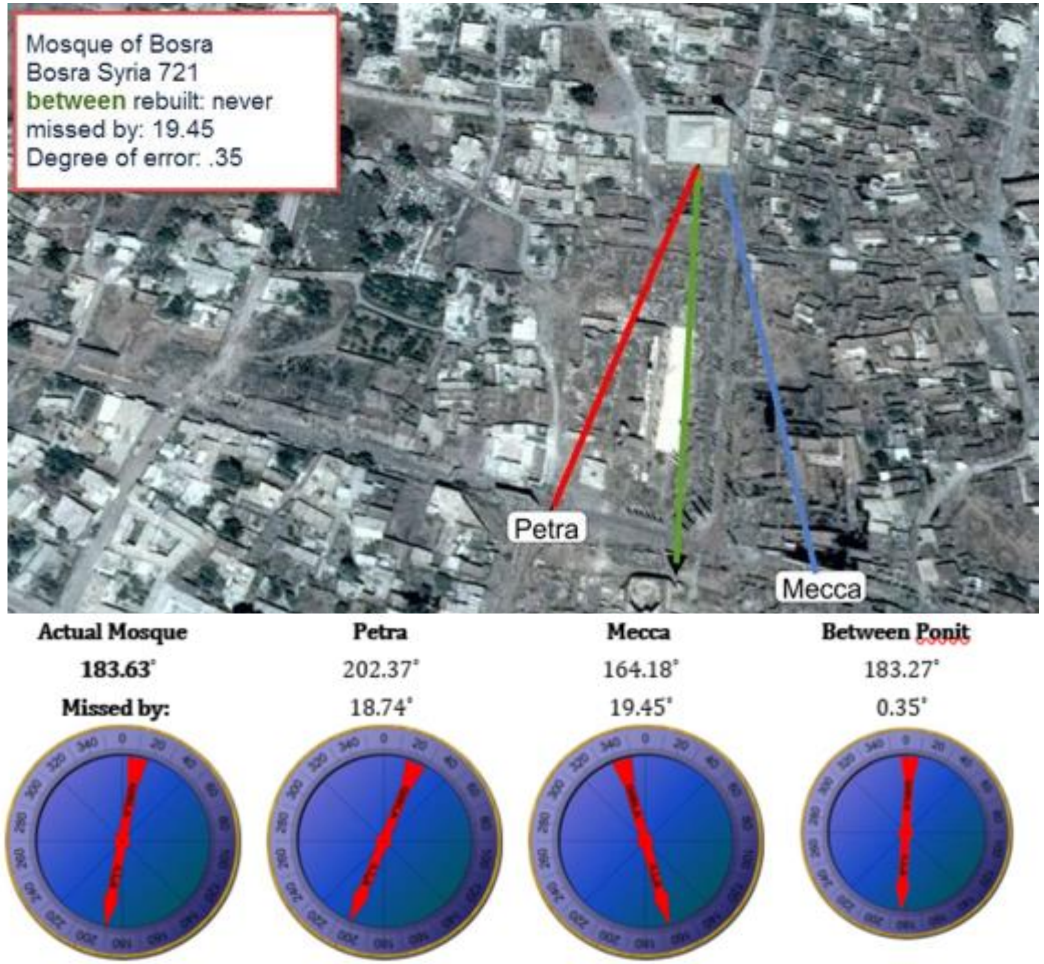
Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
190.76°	187.15°	163.40°	196.93°
Missed by:	3.61°	27.36°	6.17°

17) Mosque of Umar
Bosra, Syria (721 AD)

Built in 721 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 18.74**
- **Between Degree of Error = .35**
- **Mecca D of E = 19.45**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

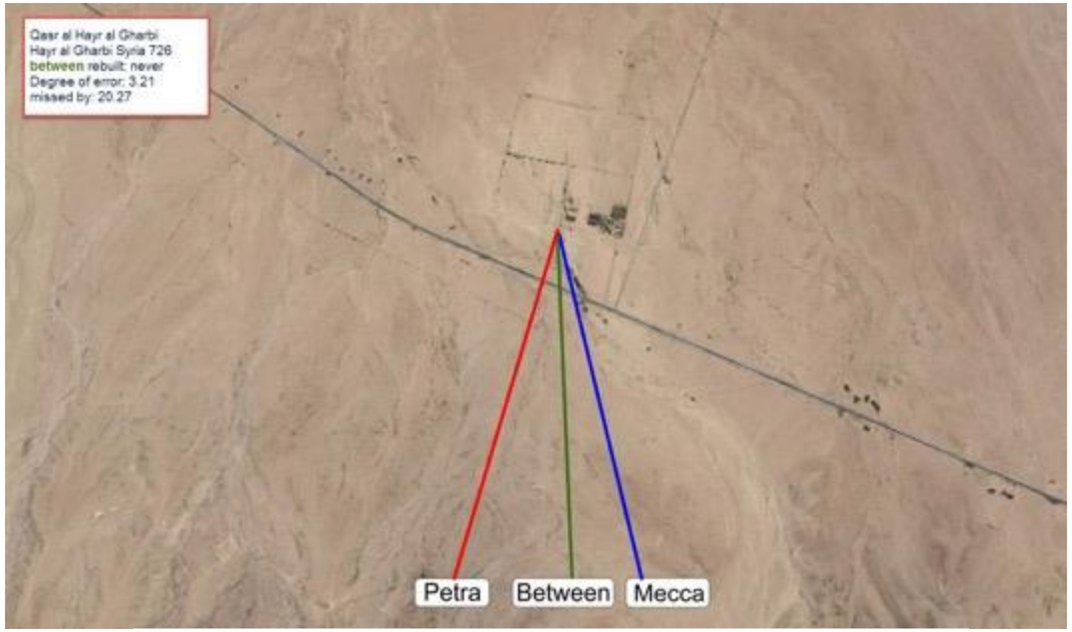


18) Hayr al-Gharbi Syria (726 AD)

Built in 726 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 27.32**
- **Between Degree of Error = 2.8**
- **Mecca D of E = 12.04**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between



Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Between
192.61°	213.78°	177.02°	195.4°
Missing by:	27.72°	12.04°	2.8°

19) Banbhore Mosque Pakistan (727 AD)

Built in 727AD

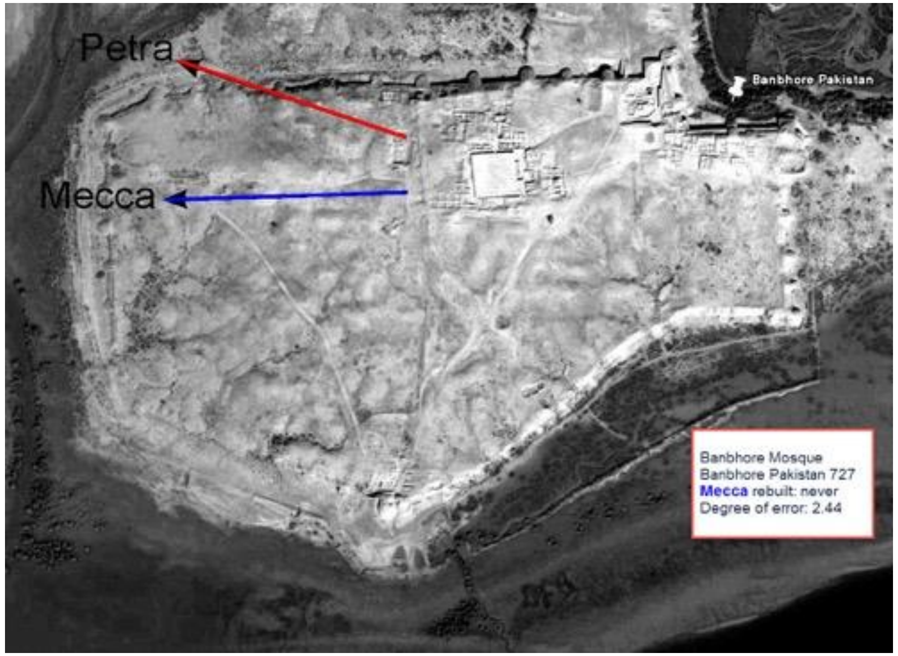
- **Petra Degree of error = 22.61**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 25.55**
- **Mecca Degree of Error = 2.44**

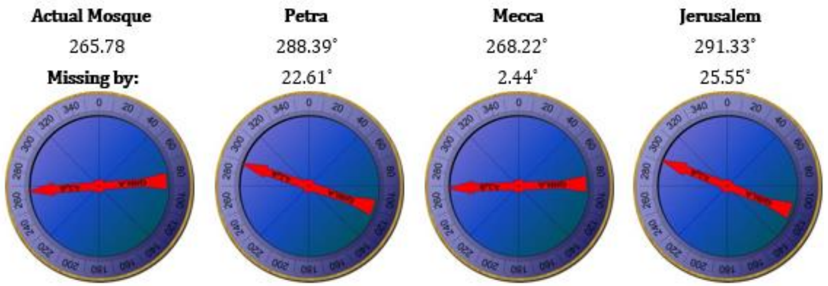
Closest city for the Qibla = Mecca!

QIBLA # 3

Note: This is the 1st example of a mosque facing **Mecca**, a full 103 years after the Qibla was canonized, in **624 AD!**

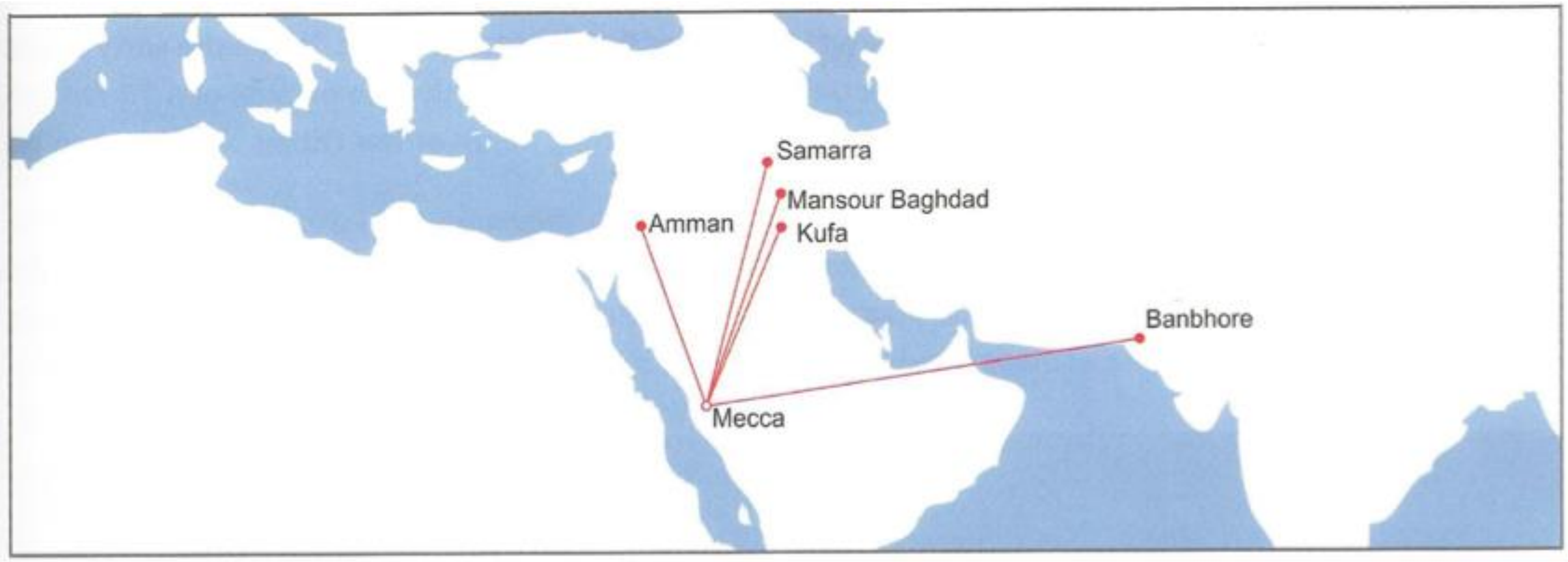
(See Surah 2:143-149)





Qibla #3 = Mecca

The Qiblas only begin facing Mecca from 727 AD – 876 AD, over 100 years too late!

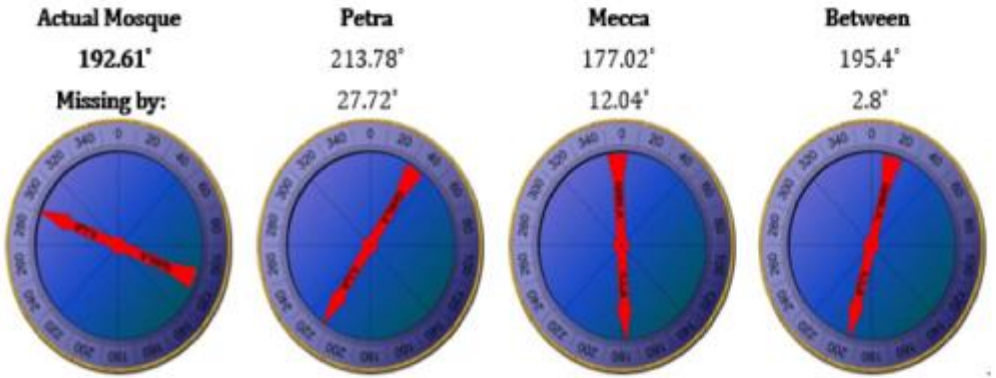


20) Qasr al-Hayr al Sharqi
Syria (728 AD)

Built in 728 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 27.32**
- **Between Degree of Error = 2.8**
- **Mecca D of E = 12.04**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

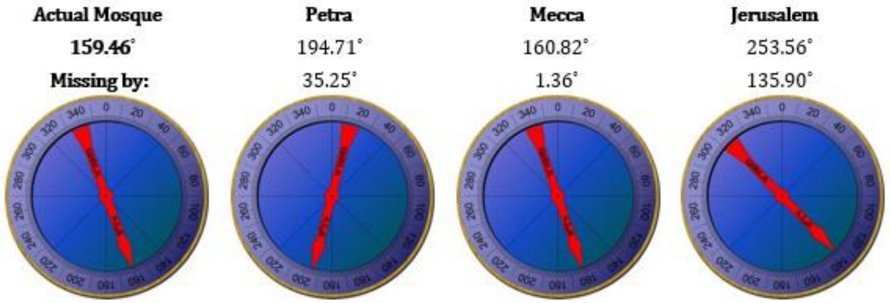


21) Amman Citadel Mosque Jordan (730 AD)

Built in 730 AD

- **Petra 'Degree of error' = 35.25**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 135.90**
- **Mecca D of E = 1.36**

Closest city for the Qibla = Mecca



Two Mosques at the Amman Citadel…

Amman Mosque

- The lower building, with a Qibla facing **Petra** (red line) was built about **701 AD**
- The upper building, with a Qibla facing **Mecca**, was built around **730 AD**, thus determining the time periods when the qibla began changing towards Mecca.

22) Jami’ al-Zaytuna Tunisia (732 AD)

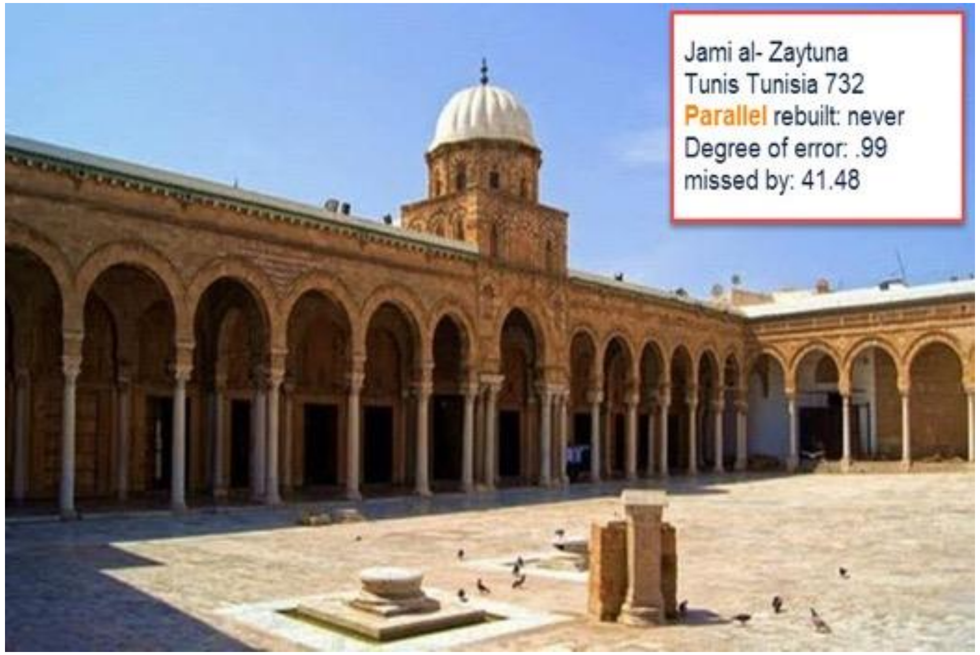
Built in 732 AD

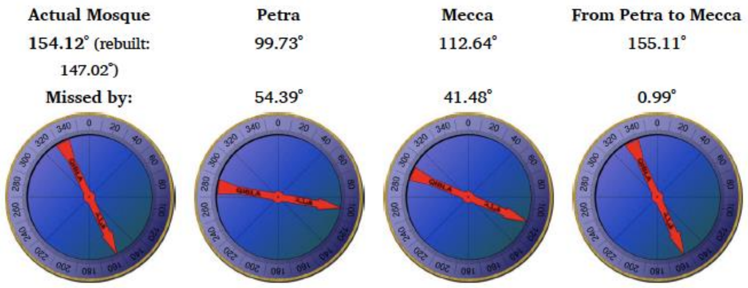
- **Petra Degree of error = 54.39**
- **Parallel Degree of error = .99**
- **Mecca Degree of error = 41.48**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Parallel</u>

<u>QIBLA # 4</u>

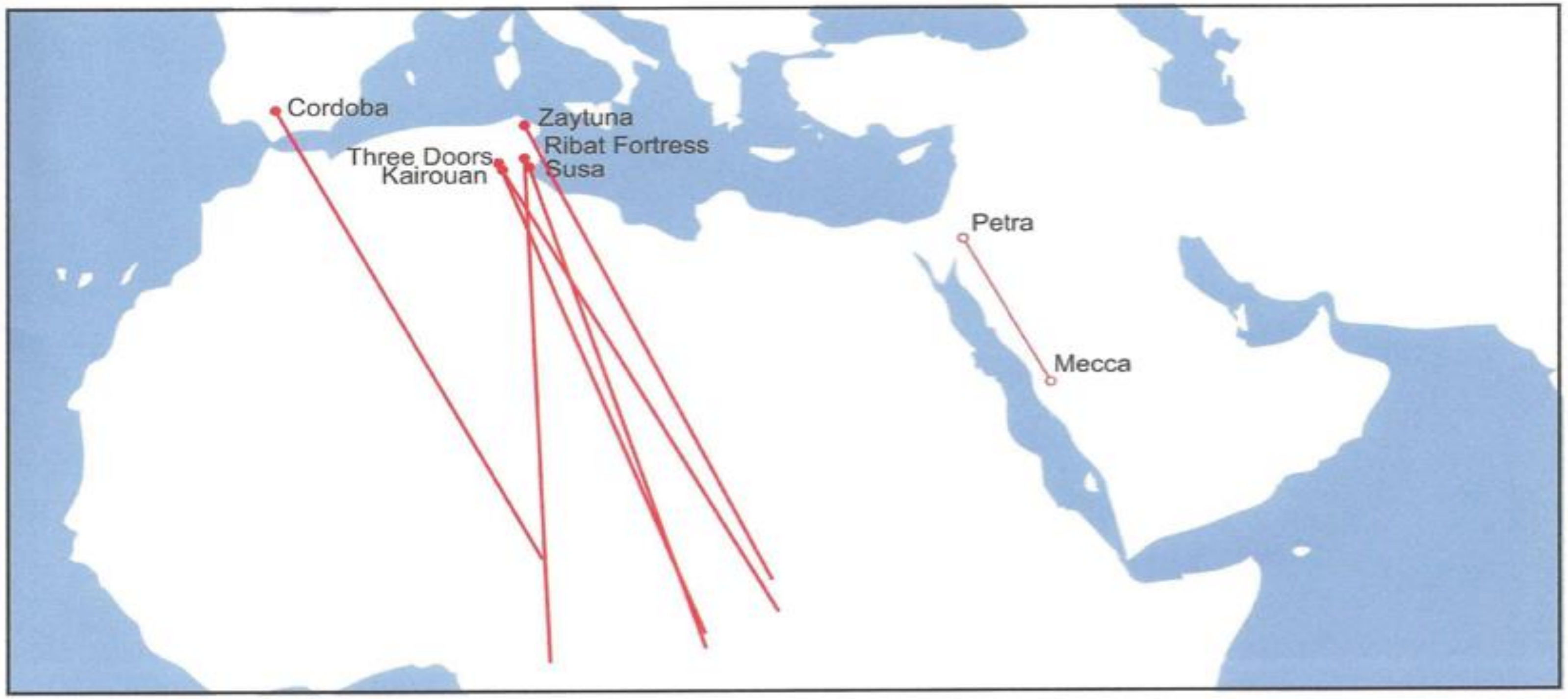
Note: Here is the first example of a **4th Qibla**, one which **parallels** a line between **Petra** and **Mecca**





Qibla #4 = Parallel

There are Qiblas which face Parallel to Petra & Mecca from 732 AD – 866 AD…why?

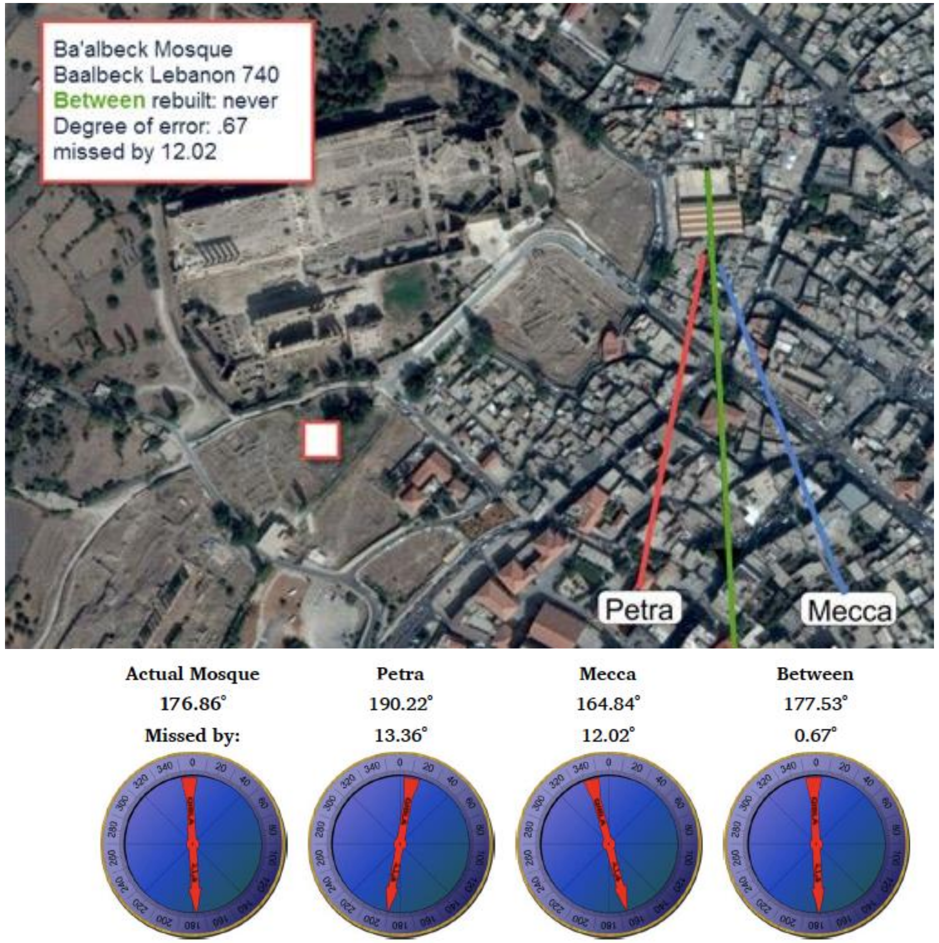


23) Ba'albeck Mosque Lebanon (740 AD)

Built in 740 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 13.36**
- **Between Degree of Error = .67**
- **Mecca D of E = 12.02**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

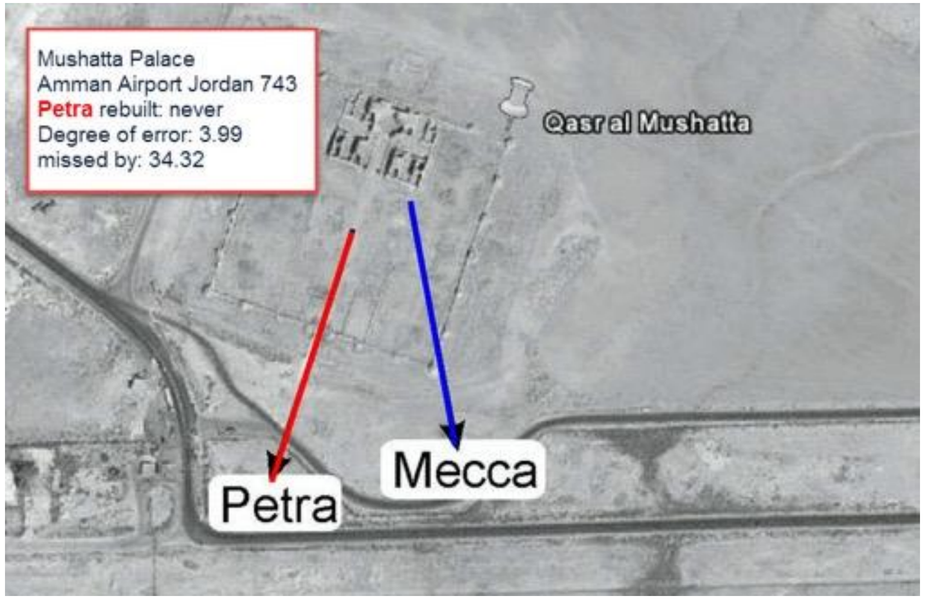


24) Mushatta Mosque Amman, Jordan (743 AD)

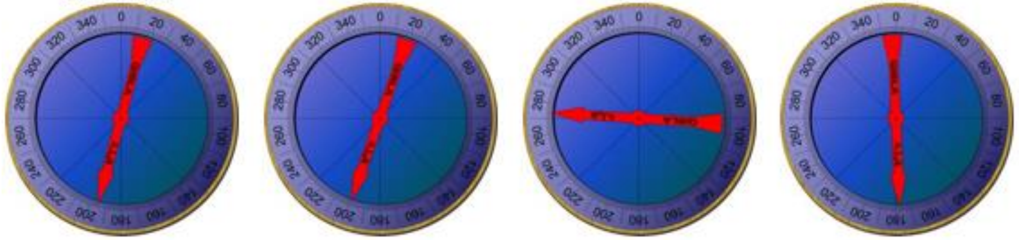
Built in 743 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 3.99**
- **Jerusalem Degree of Error = 78.52**
- **Mecca Degree of Error = 34.32**

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra



Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
195.13˚	199.12˚	160.81˚	273.65˚
Missed by:	3.99˚	34.32˚	78.52˚

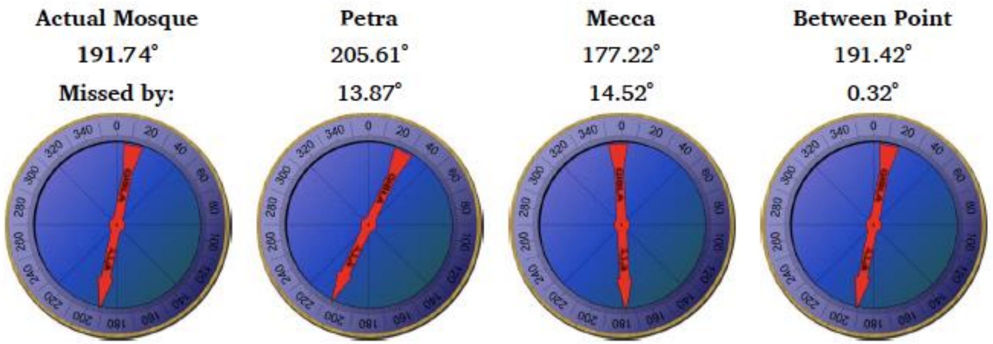


25) Harran Mosque Turkey (744 AD)

Built in 744 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 13.87**
- **Between Degree of Error = .32**
- **Mecca Degree of Error = 14.52**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between

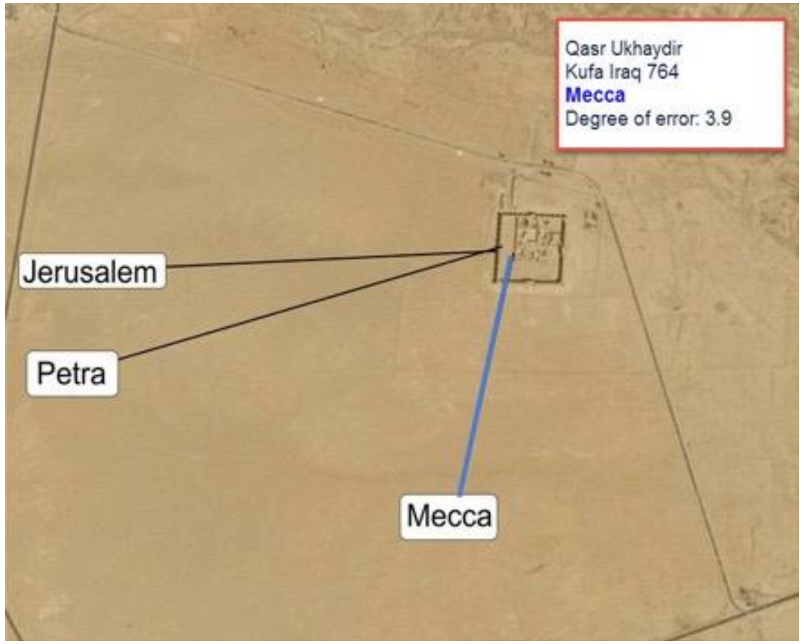


26) Qasr Ukhaydir Kufa, Iraq (764 AD)

Built in 764 AD

- **Petra 'Degree of error' = 61.61**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 72**
- **Mecca D of E = 3.9**

Closest city for the Qibla = Mecca



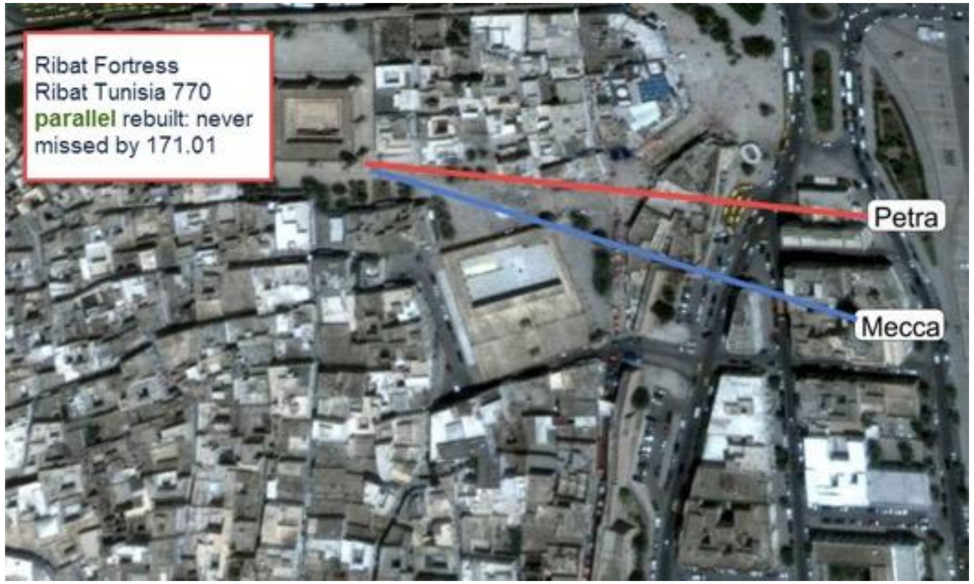
Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Jerusalem
198.24°	259.85°	202.14°	270.59°
Missed by:	61.61°	3.9°	72°

27) Ribat Fortress Tunisia (770 AD)

Built in 770 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 84.87**
- **Parallel D of E = 27.48**
- **Mecca D of E = 171.01**

Closest city for the Qibla = Parallel



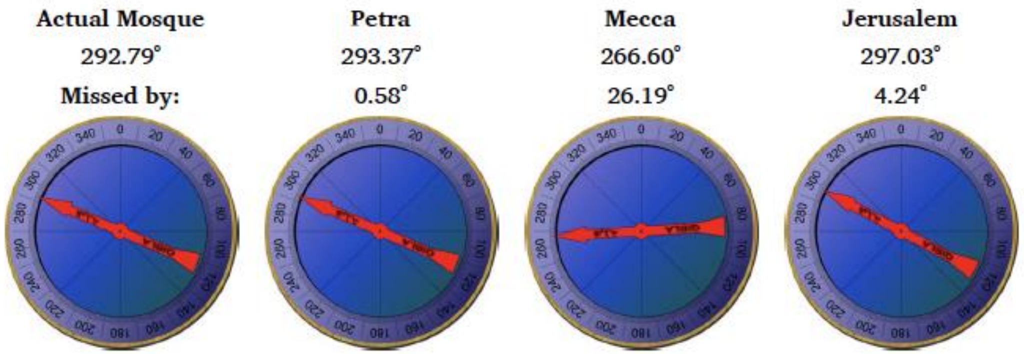
Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	From Petra to Mecca
182.59°	97.74°	111.58°	155.11°
Missed by:	84.87°	171.01°	27.48°

28) Sahi Ramdah
Bowhar, Oman (771 AD?)

Built: Unknown (771?)

- **Petra Degree of error = .58**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 4.24**
- **Mecca D of E = 26.19**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>

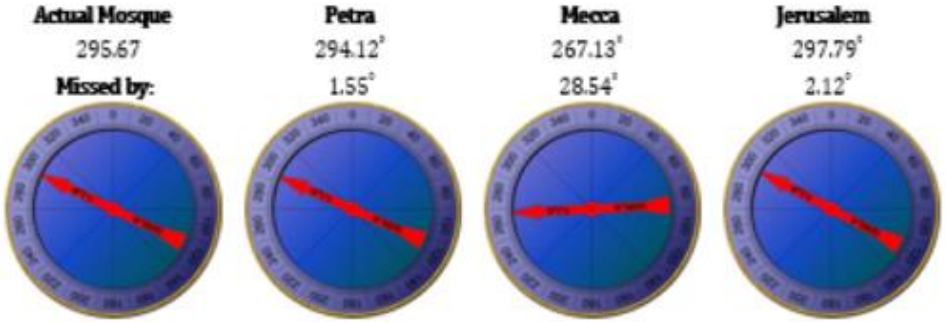


29) Suma'il Omani Mosque Oman (771 AD?)

Built: Unknown (771?)

- **Petra Degree of error = 1.55**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 2.12**
- **Mecca D of E = 28.54**

Closest city for the Qibla = <u>Petra</u>

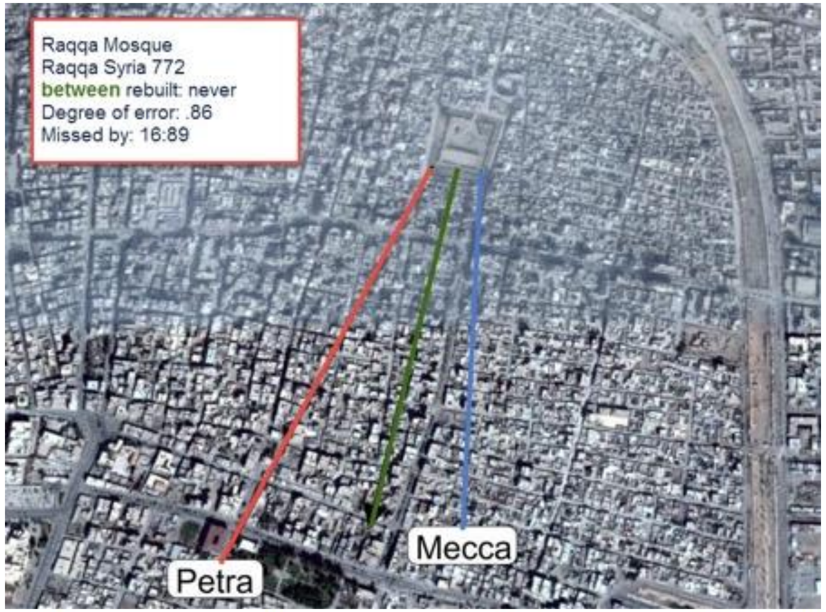


30) Raqqa Mosque Syria (772 AD)

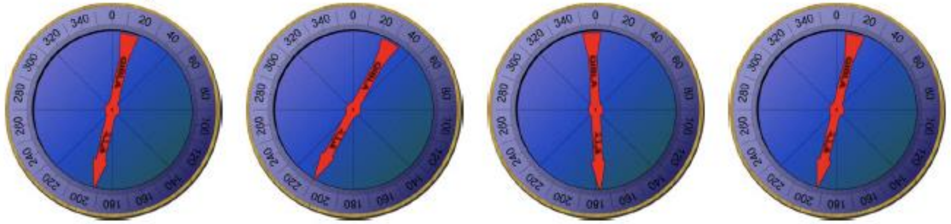
Built in 772 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 15.17**
- **Between Degree of Error = .86**
- **Mecca D of E = 16.89**

Closest city for the Qibla = Between



Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	Between Point
193.9°	209.07°	177.01°	193.04°
Missed by:	15.17°	16.89°	0.86°

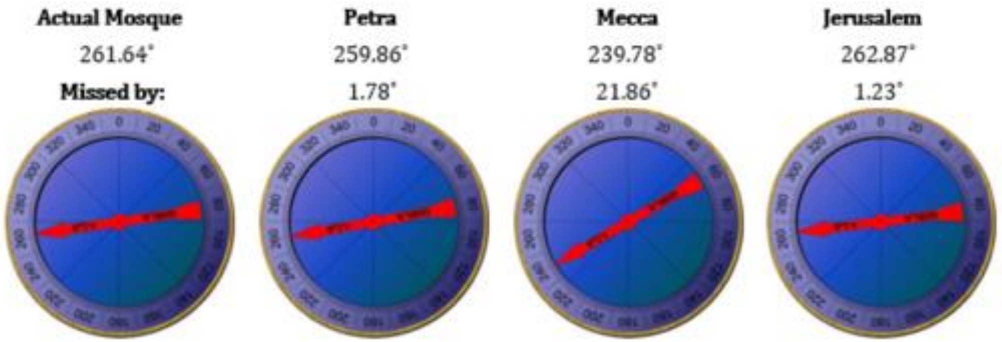


31) Bibi Samarkan Uzbekistan (773 AD?)

Built: Unknown (773?)

- **Petra Degree of error = 1.78**
- **Jerusalem D of E = 1.23**
- **Mecca D of E = 21.86**

Closest city for the Qibla = Petra/Jerusalem

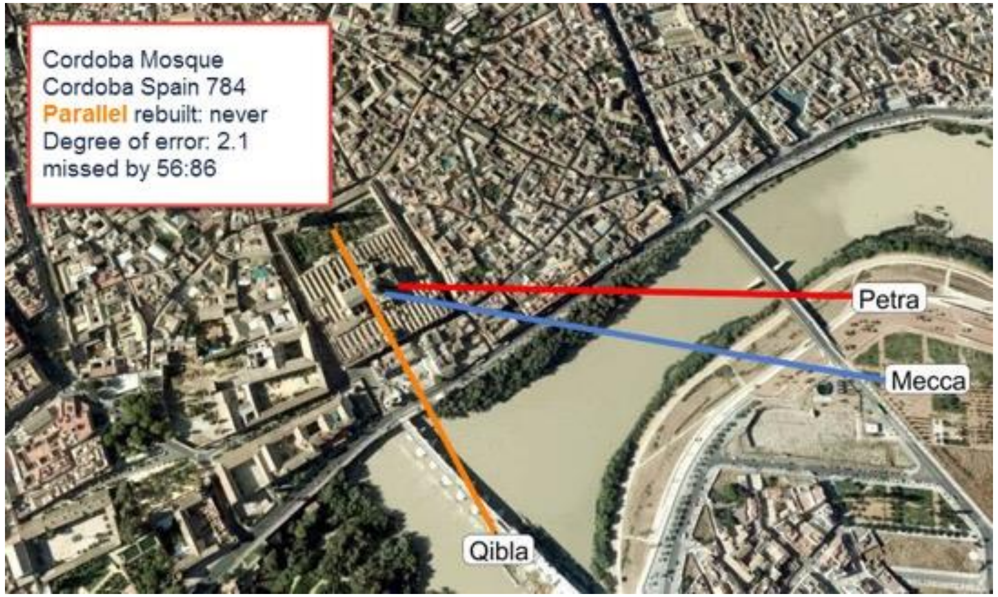


32) Cordoba Mosque Spain (784 AD)

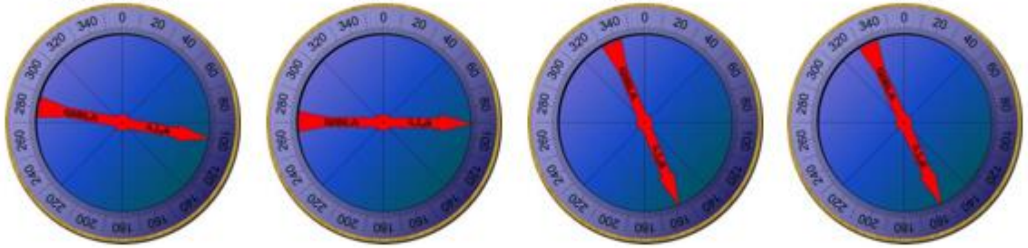
Built in 784 AD

- **Petra Degree of error = 66.5**
- **Parallel D of E = 2.01**
- **Mecca D of E = 56.86**

Closest city for the Qibla = Parallel



Actual Mosque	Petra	Mecca	From Petra to Mecca
157.12°	90.62°	100.29°	155.11°
Missed by:	66.5°	56.86°	2.01°

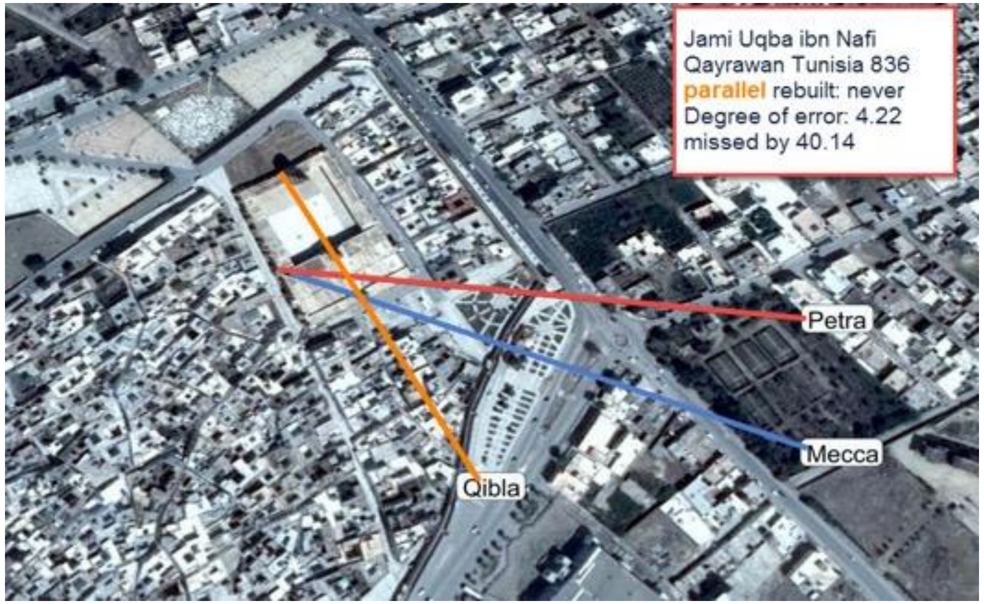


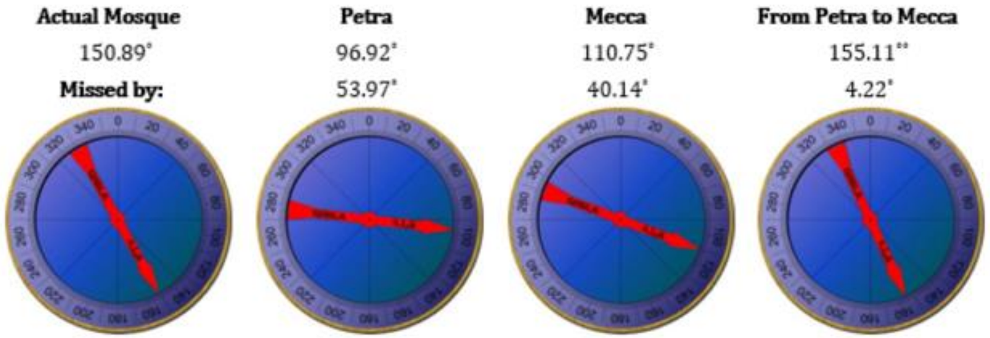
33) Jami' Uqba Ibn Nafi Qiruwan, Tunisia (836 AD)

Built in 836 AD

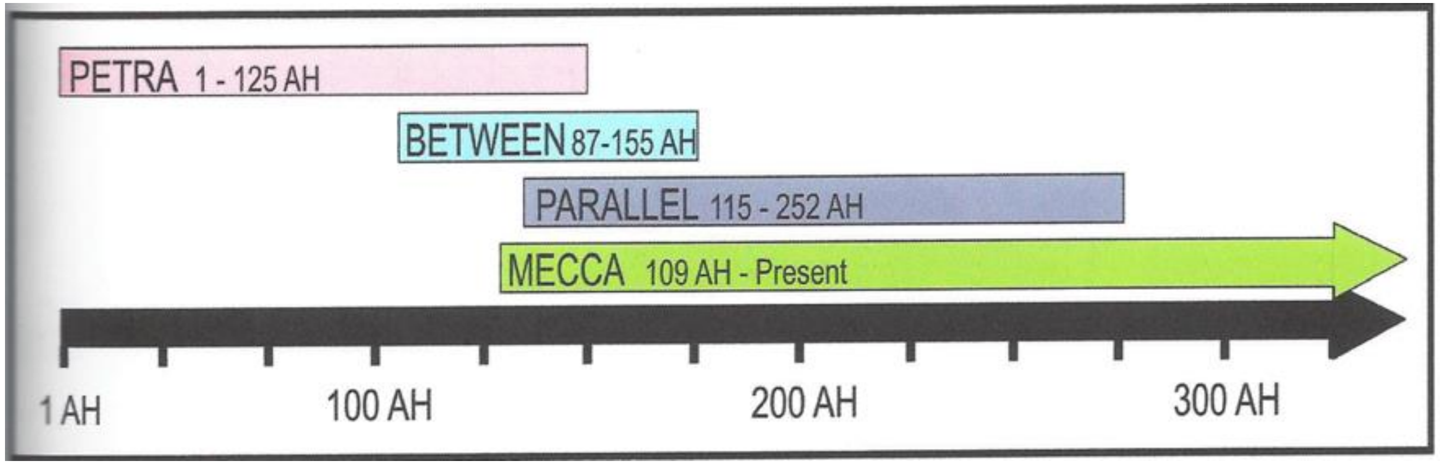
- **Petra Degree of error = 53.97**
- **Parallel D of E = 4.22**
- **Mecca D of E = 40.14**

Closest city for the Qibla = Parallel





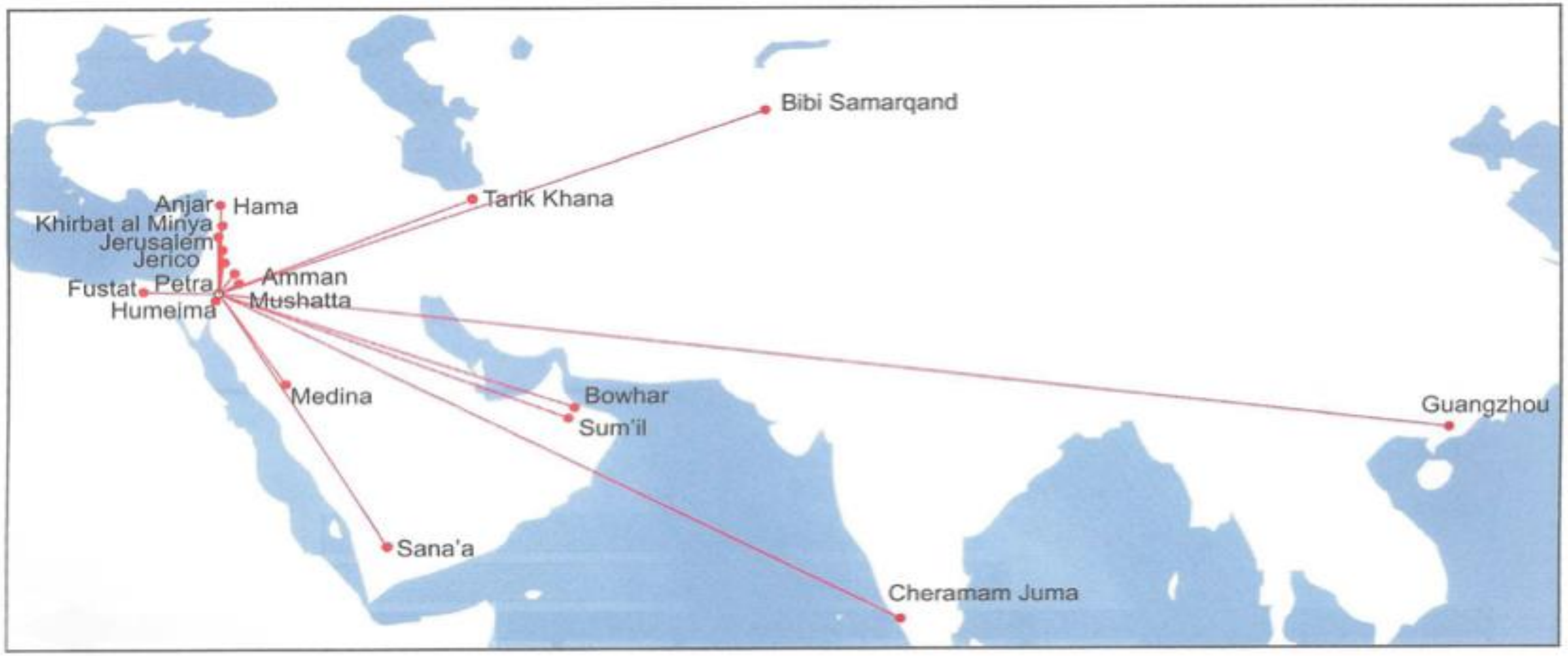
Note: There were 4 Qiblas



- <u>ALL</u> the <u>Qiblas</u> <u>were facing</u> towards <u>PETRA</u> until 706 AD
- There was a confusion for the next 100+ years
- 17 face Petra – 8 are between – 10 face Mecca - 6 are Parallel
- The Qibla was <u>not finalized</u> towards <u>MECCA</u> until 876 AD
- Almost 250 years too late!

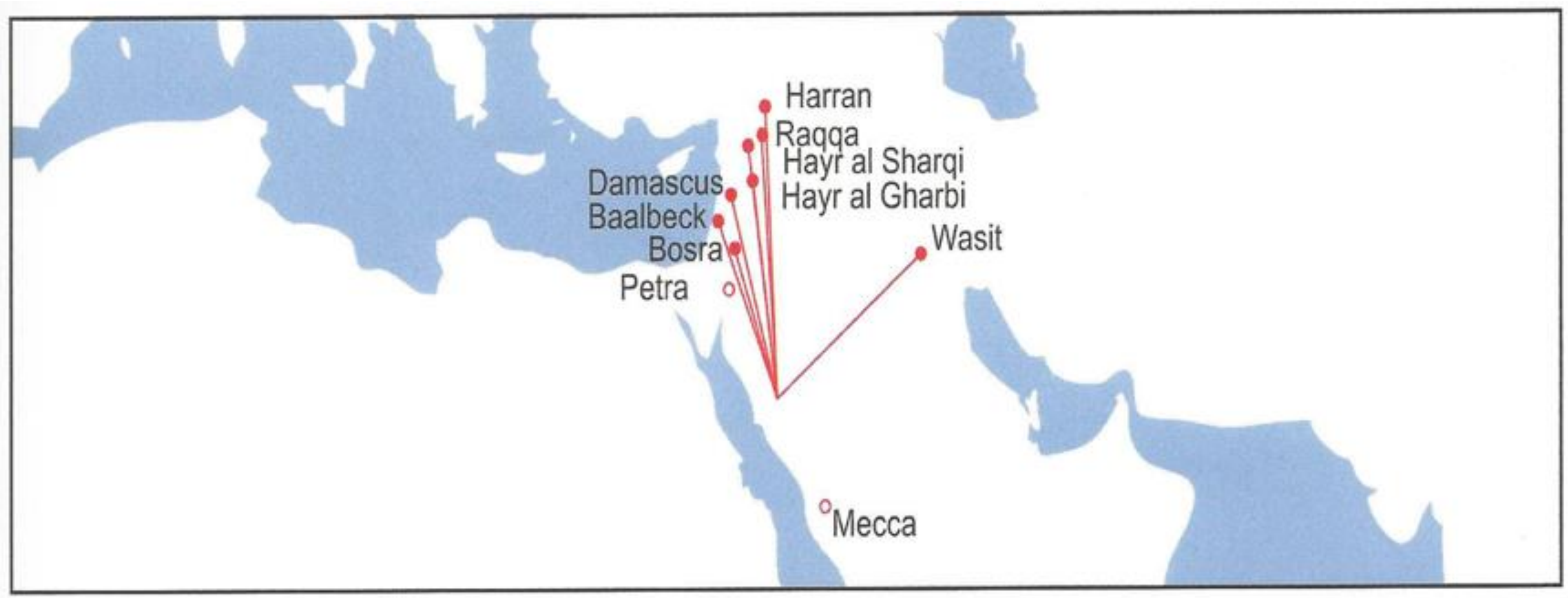
Qibla #1 = Petra

Most of the Qiblas face towards Petra for the 1st century (624 AD – 772 AD)



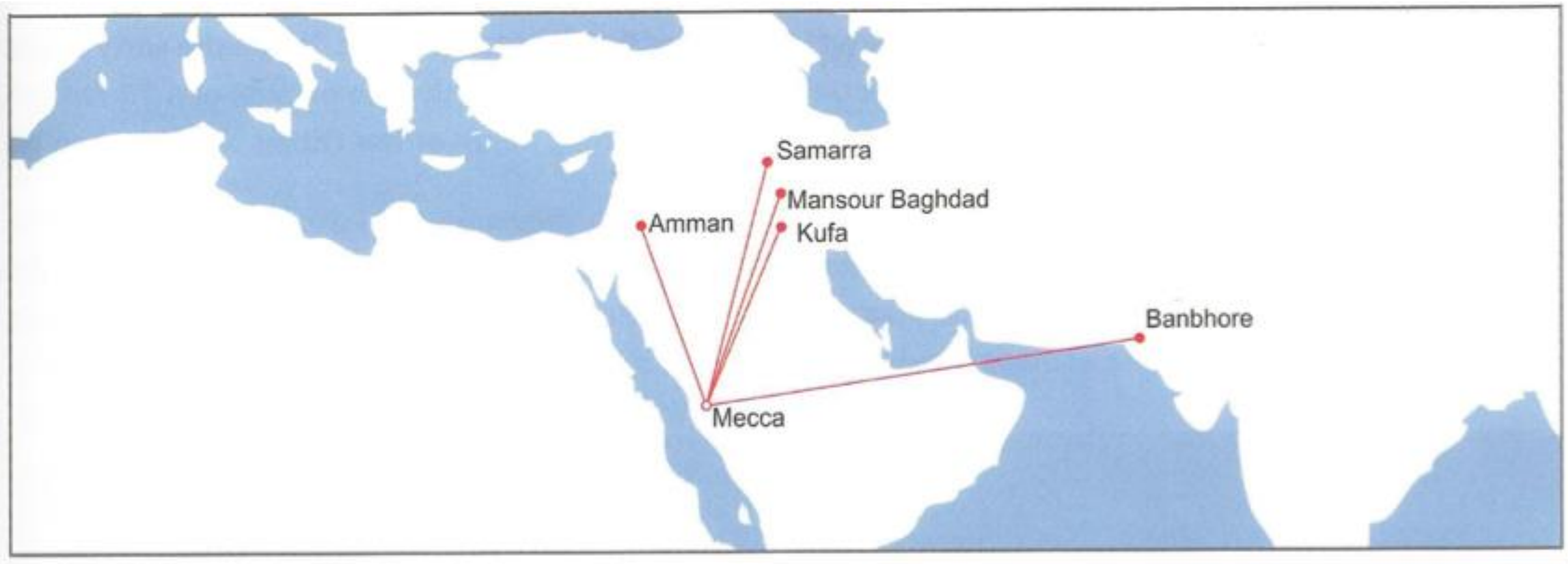
Qibla #2 = Between

The Qiblas then point between Petra and Mecca from 706 AD – 772 AD



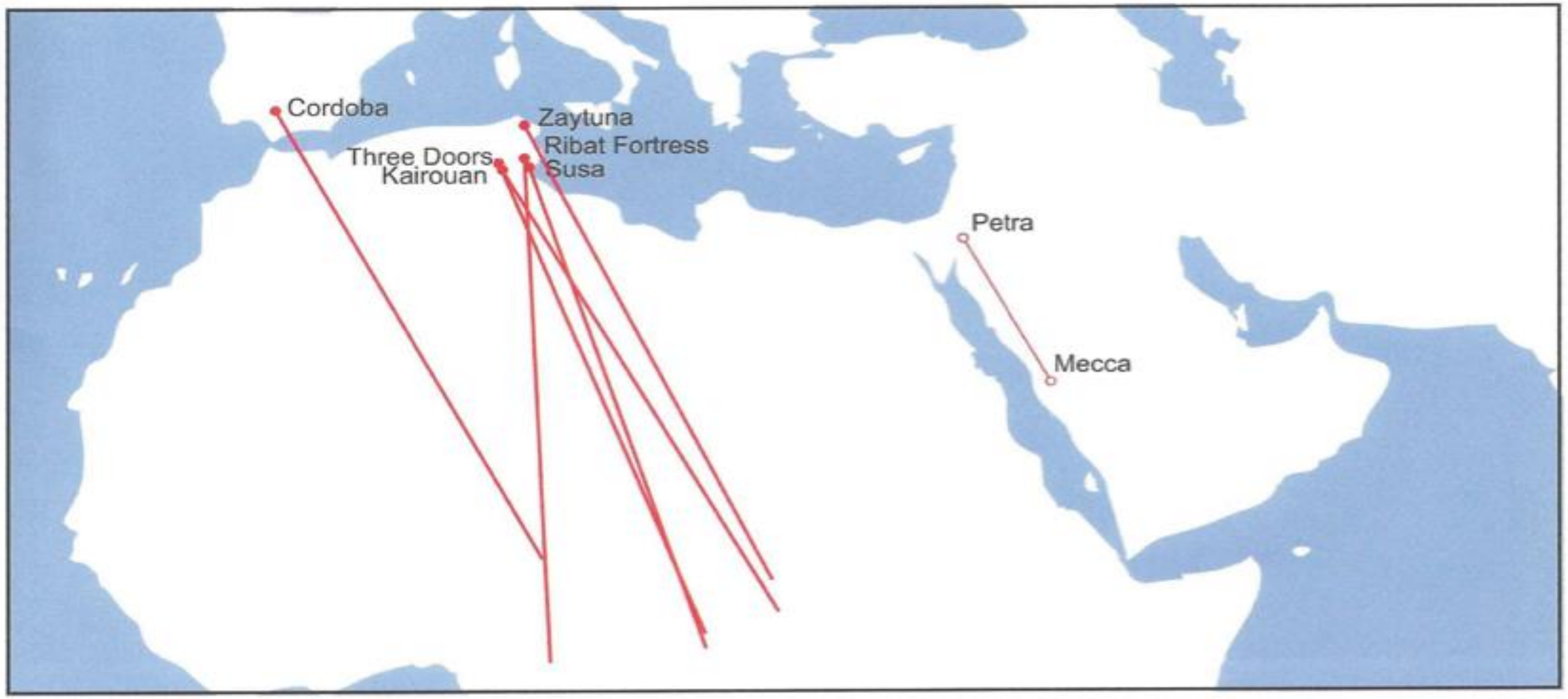
Qibla #3 = Mecca

The Qiblas only begin facing Mecca from 727 AD – 876 AD, over 100 years too late!



Qibla #4 = Parallel

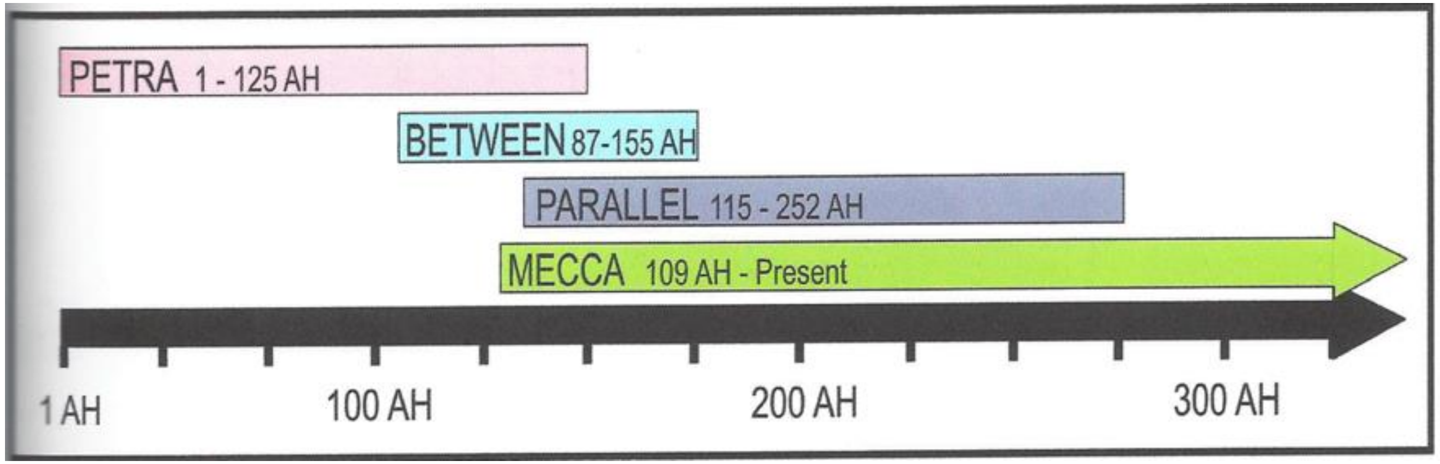
Yet, there are Qiblas which face Parallel to Petra & Mecca from 732 AD – 866 AD



Which Qiblas were the most accurate?

- Modern scholars assumed that the **variety of Qibla directions** were due to the **inability of the ancient Arabs** of finding accurate Qibla direction
- Modern scholars simply quoted earlier Islamic scholars concerning this theory
- They **assumed the Meccan Qiblas were more accurate**
- Now, with much more accurate GPS technology we know that the **earliest Arabs had the most accurate Qiblas**

Which Qibla is the most accurate?



- Petra (17) = 2.9 degrees accuracy (1.9 if we take out the 2 worst)
- Between (8) = .98 degrees accuracy
- Mecca (10) = 4.78 degrees accuracy
- Parallel (6) = 3.5 degrees accuracy

Conclusion: The earlier Qiblas were more accurate, while Meccan Qiblas were the least!

Why were the early Arabs so accurate?

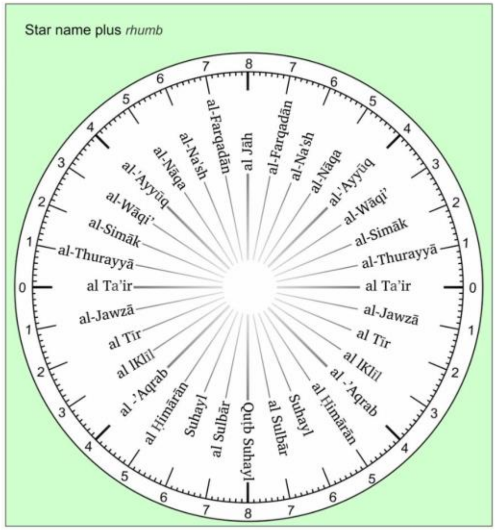
- King and other medieval and modern Muslims scholars assum the earlier Arabs didn’t have adequate mathematical abilities
- Yet, what really happened was that the **Arabs lost their ability to find directions accurately, because Roman roads were introduced**, which they used, and thus **didn’t need the stars to guide them**
- Instead they employed mathematical equations, which turned out to be less accurate. Thus, the ability to detect very accurate measurements became lost
- The **earliest Arabs** who built the earliest mosques **used Astronomy (the study of the stars)** to find one’s direction, not Astrology (the use of stars to tell the future)
- They had to because of their **trips across so much desert** where the sands shift and move. If they didn’t know the way, they would die. It was survival

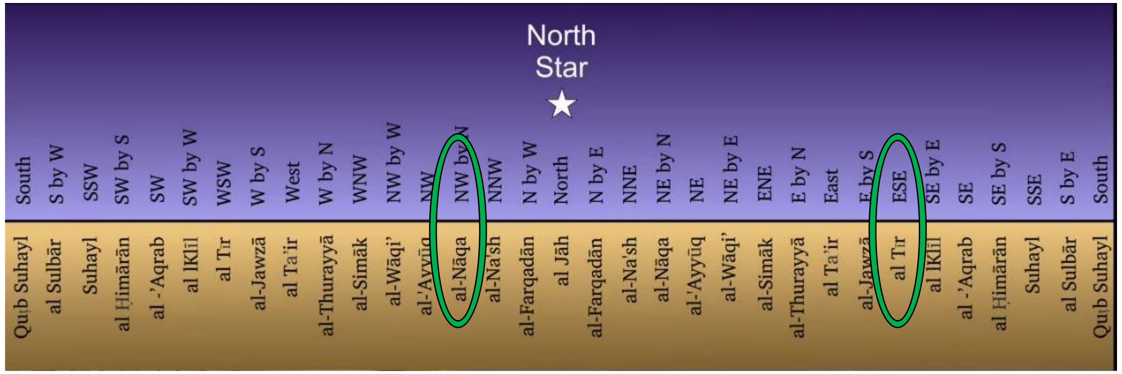
Using stars and string to find direction

- To tell **North and South** they measured easily by using the **North Star**, which never moves
- They used either their fingers, or a **Kamal** (a block of wood on a string which measured how far up or down the **knots on a string** were once that block, sitting on the horizon, reached the north star)
- For **East and West**, they needed to use a constant. So, they used the **number of steps** a man walked in order to arrive at the place they were going
- Men travelled on foot, while camels were used for carrying the goods. As they walked they employed **poetry** which had a rhythm and **allotted a number for each poem**, so when they came to the end of their poem they would know how far they had reached, and simply added up the number of times they recited a certain poem
- Thus the reason **they chanted poetry as they walked, even today**

Using stars to find direction

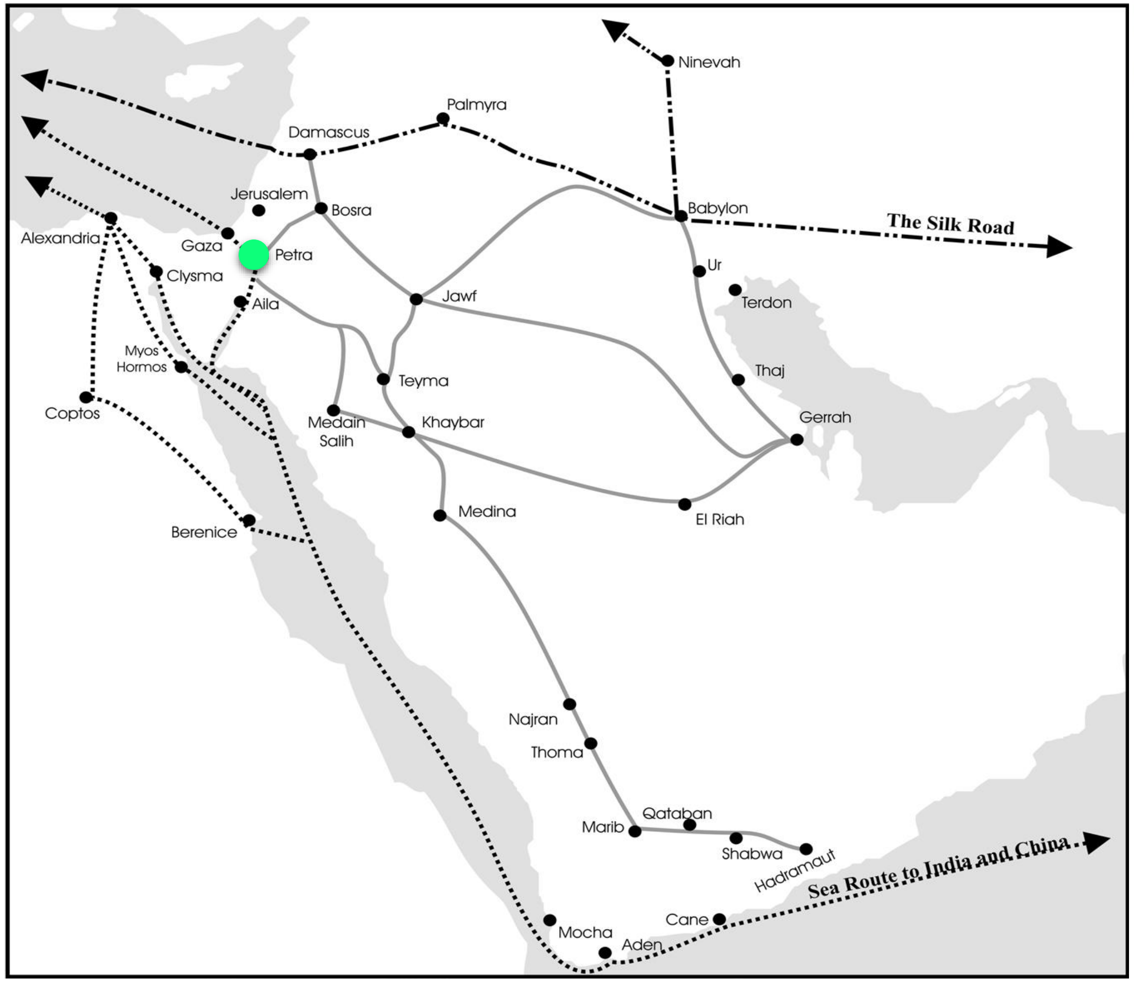
- They employed **32 stars** which were used on a **compass** to know when they needed to go East and West from their location, in relation to the North Star.
- Thus, for instance, they would walk towards '**Naka**' which is a star in a north western direction which they went for a certain number of strides before they were to turn towards another star, **'Al Tir'**, in and eastern direction, and so on.



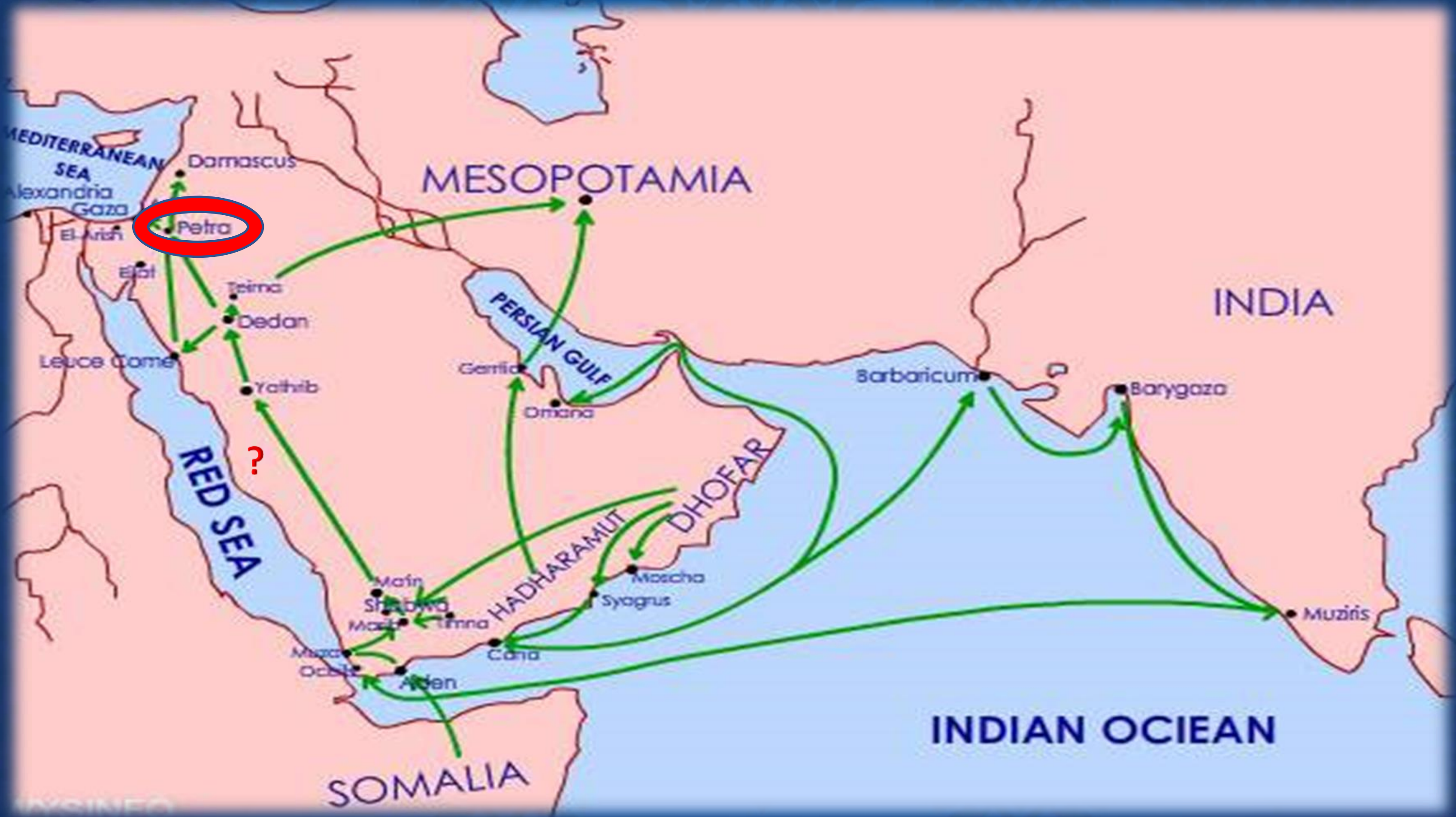


Significance of Petra?

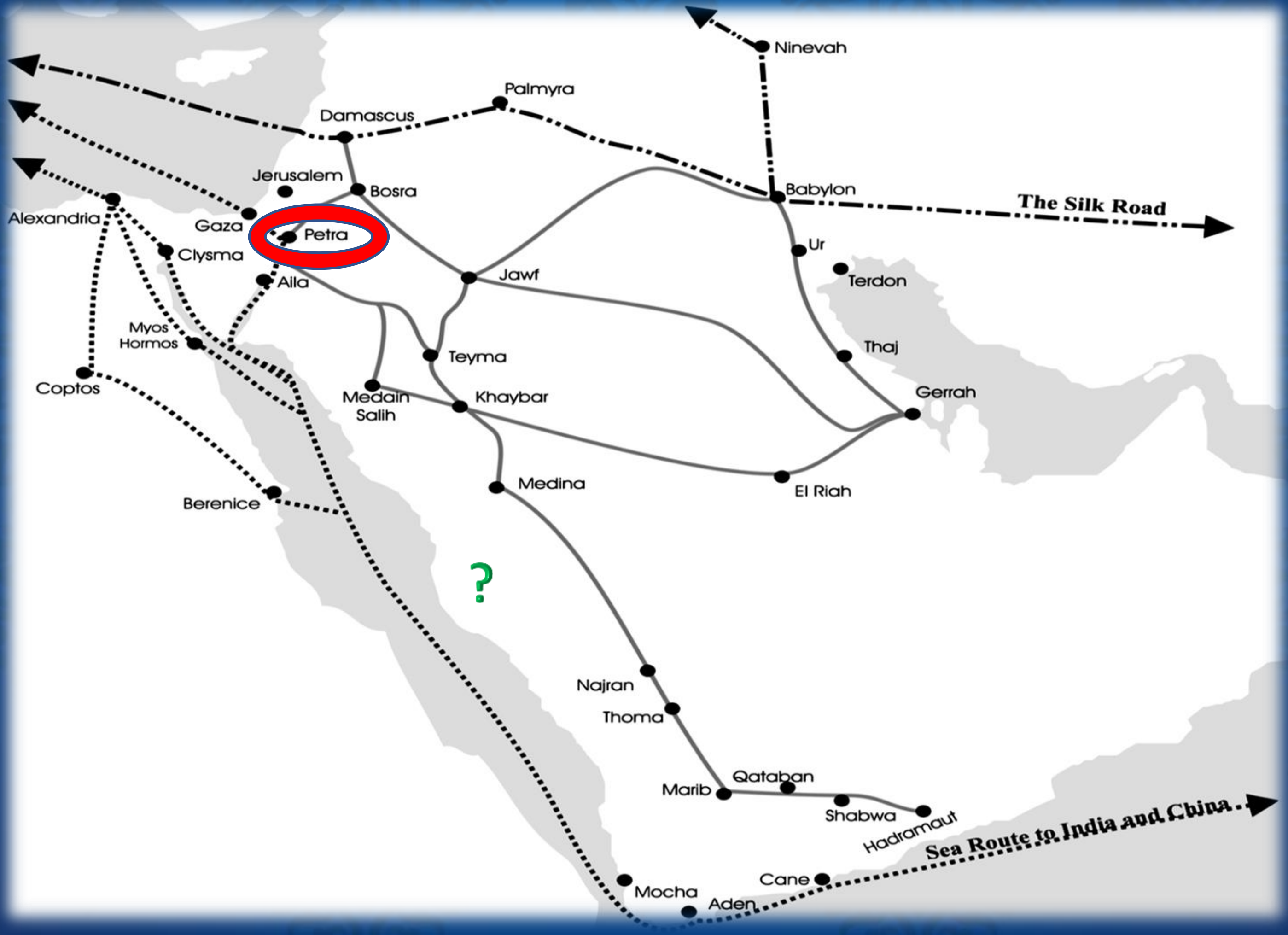
- It is the **Center of Trade**
- It was also the **sanctuary** for:
  - The **Nabataeans** (2nd c. BC – 713 AD)
  - The **Umayyads** (661 AD – 749 AD)
- The Nabataeans gave us:
  - **Arabic**
  - **Allah** & Al-Lat (al Uzza)



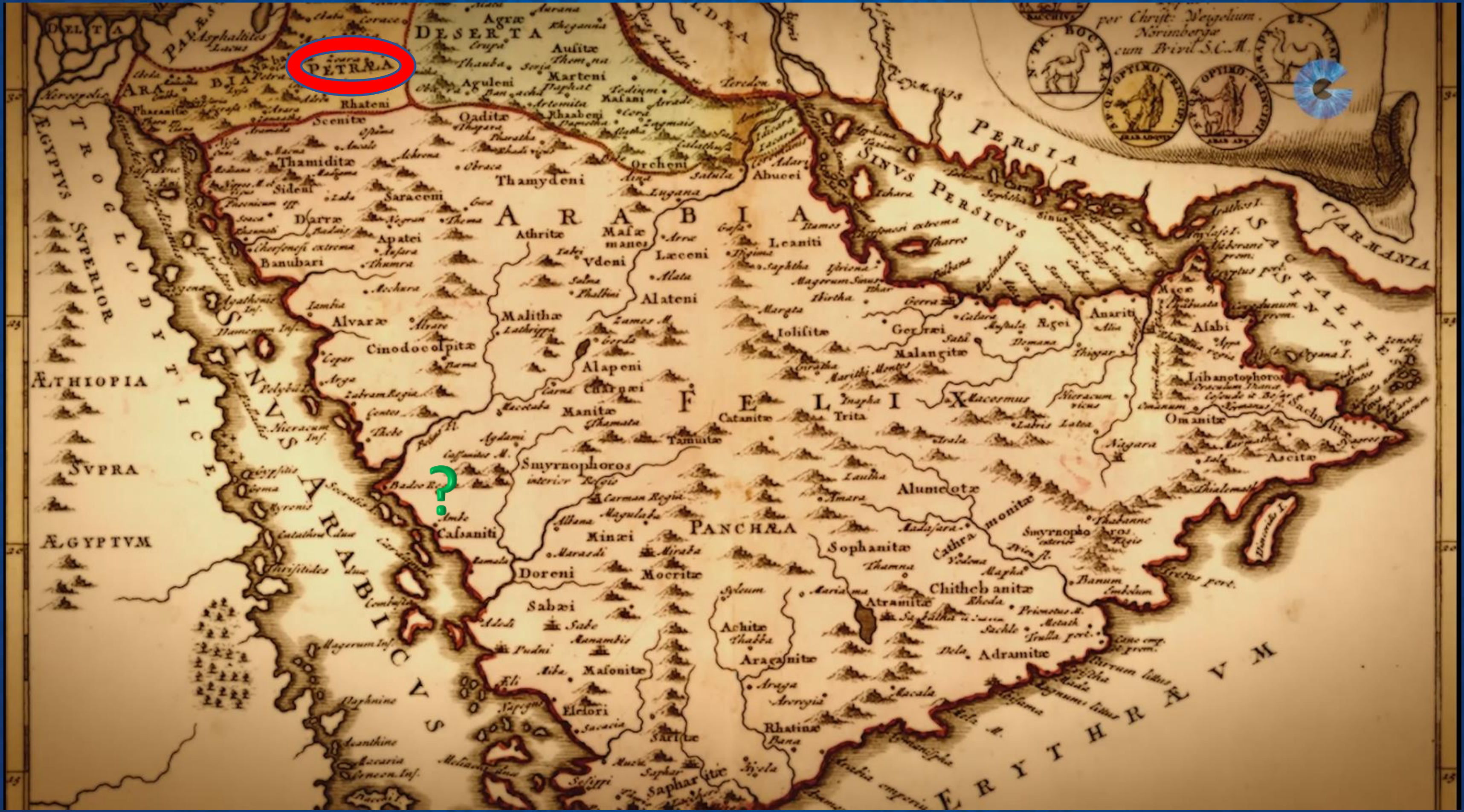
Mecca is missing, but Petra is there!



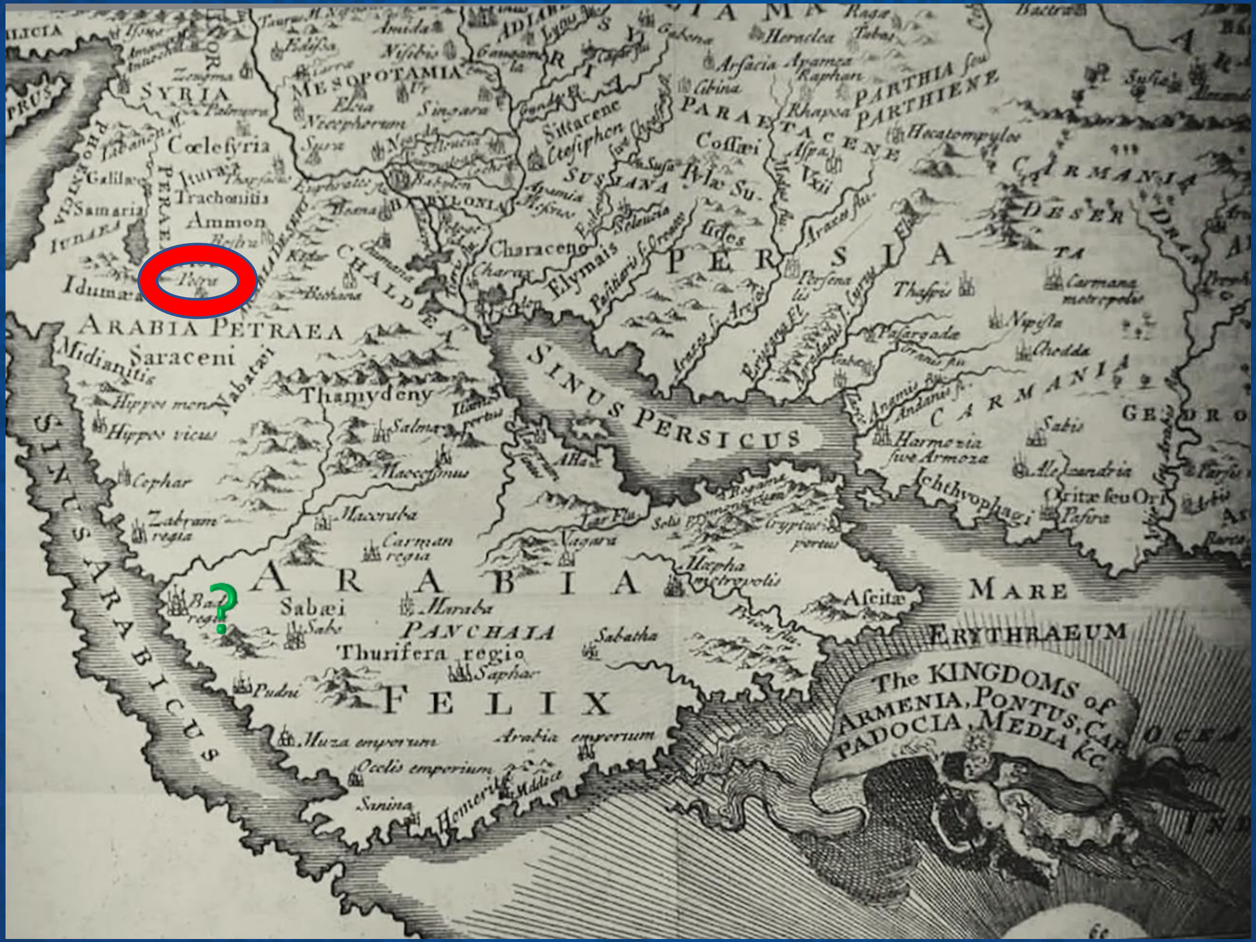
Mecca is still missing, but not Petra!



And again, no Mecca, but there's Petra

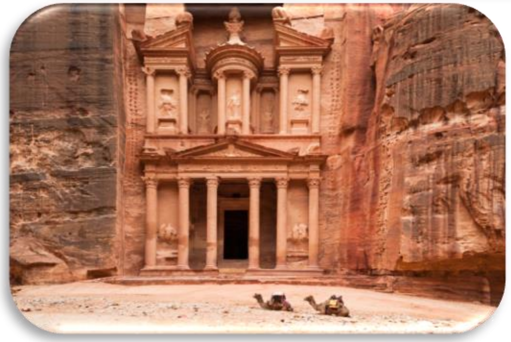


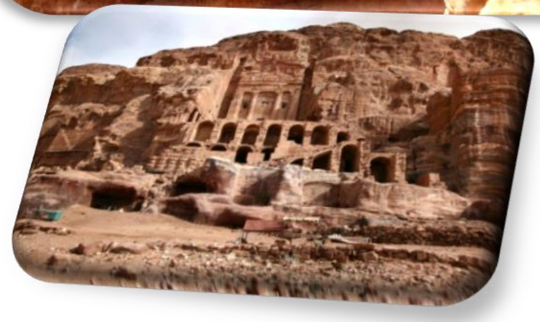
And finally…the same problem



Petra’s Importance

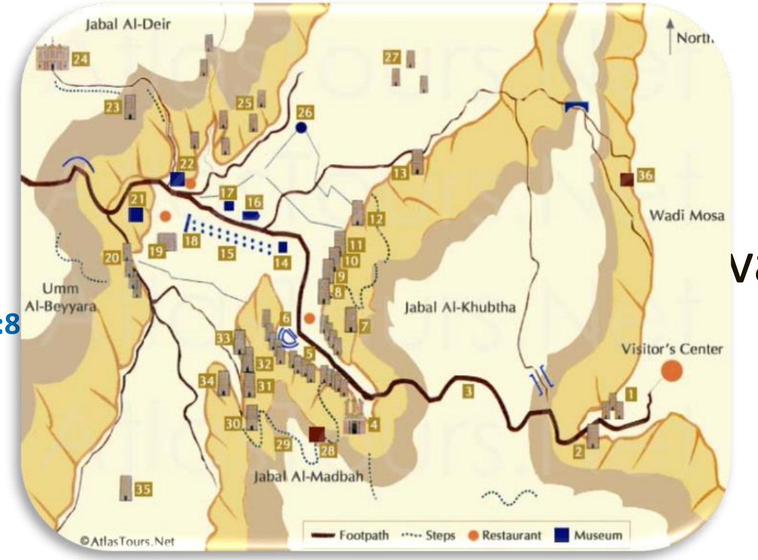
A city of Tombs and Temples





Petra has VEGETATION!

Note where **Petra** is, and what it has:



- It's in a valley, valley (Ibn Ishaq; Al Bukhari 2:645, 2:685, 3:891, 2:815, 2:8
- With a stream (Al Bukhari 2:685)
- Outside is the ruins, and a pillar of 'salt' (Surah 37:133-138)
- With fields (Al Bukhari 9:337)
- The Place of the prophet has Trees (Sahih al-Tirmidhi 1535), Grass (al Bukhari 9:337), fruit (Al Bukhari 4:281), Clay and Loam (Al Tabari VI 1079 p.6)
- It has 'Olive Trees' (Surah 6141; Surah 16; Surah 80)
- With Mountains overlooking the Kaa'ba (Ibn Ishaq; Al Bukhari 2:645, 2:685, 3:891, 2:815, 2:820, 4:227)

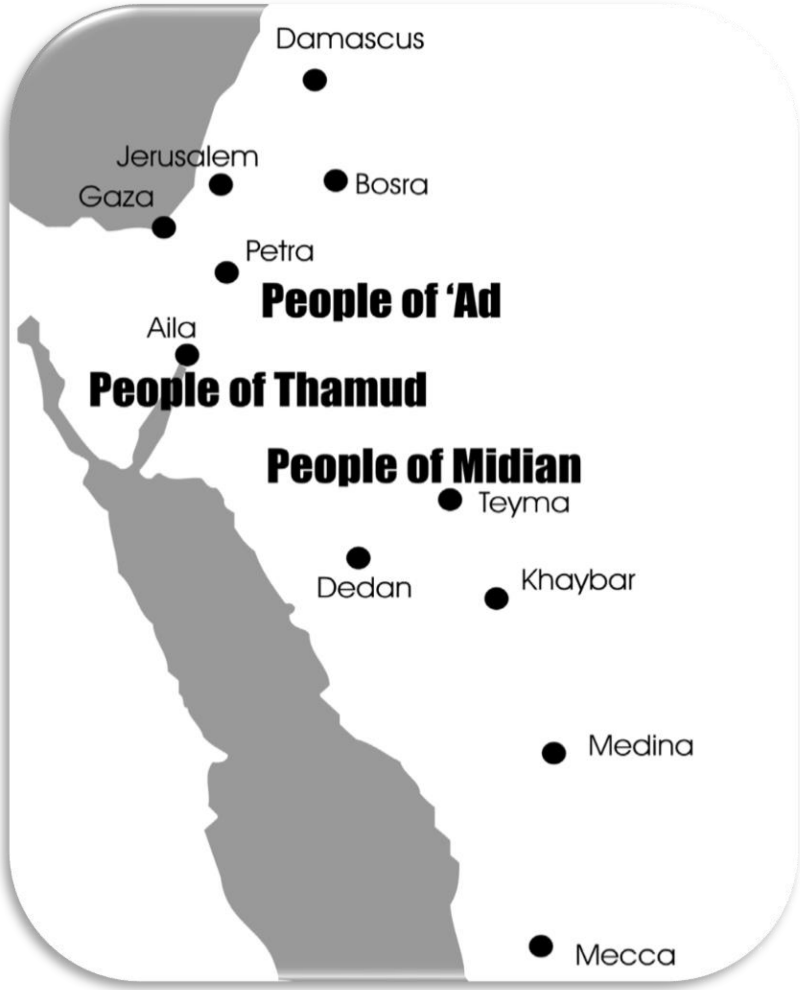
Petra has all of the items listed above (from the Qur'an and the Islamic Traditions)…

THUS, could Petra be the place they are referring to?

Petra is where **Ad**, **Thamud**, and **Midian** are located!

Of the 65 geographical references in the Qur'an concerning where the Prophet lived… Only 9 places named, including:

- **'Ad** (**23x**) (Biblical '**Uz**)
- **Thamud** (**24x**) (**Nabateans**)
    - Cut dwellings into mountains
- **Midian** (**7x**) (**Midianites**)
- They must be important
- Yet, all 3 civilisations are located
- in **No. Arabia,** near **Petra!**
- and <u>not</u> near **<u>MECCA!</u>**
- **600 miles too far north!**



Why is this Significant?

Let's review what we have noticed so far:

- Nothing is known of **Muhammad** until the **late 7th century** (from within Arab sources)
- His book, **The Qur'an** and it's manuscripts don't appear until the **early 8th century**
- His city **Mecca** isn't referred to until the **mid 8th century**
- His **biography** (Sira), and **sayings** (Hadith) don't appear until the **early & late 9th century**
- Thus, much of what we know of Muhammad is **written down** hundreds of years later, and hundreds of miles away
- It looks like he is nothing more than a later **redaction**
- Possibly begun by **Abd al-Malik**!

Historian's conclusions

R. Steven Humphreys, "Islamic History: A Framework for Inquiry"

"Islam, and the prophet's life, as we know it, was not derived from the 7th century, but evolved over a period of 200-300 years, and then redacted back on to the prophet's life, and compiled in the 9th century" (Humphreys 1991:71,83-89)

Questions we need to ask

Concerning the 'Classical Account' of Islam's emergence

- New Books, and documentaries are being published which for the first time question the Classical Account of Islam's beginnings
    - Why are there no Muslim **sources** for 200 Years?
    - Why do the claims they make **not fit** the 7th century **historical** record?
    - Why are the **geographical** references so few & confusing?
    - Why do they all seem to fit an area much further **north**?

Further Questions

Concerning Mecca and the Qibla

- Why are there so many references to Vegetation which **wouldn't exist in Mecca**?
- Why is Mecca not on the **trade route**?
- Why is Mecca not mentioned until **741 AD**, nor included in maps until **900 AD**?
- Why do all the **Qiblas** face **Petra** for the first 100 years, then are confused the next 100, and **aren't standardized** to Mecca until 822 AD, 200 years too late!??
- Is it not surprising that Historians now consider much of what we know about **early Islam** is possibly historically **spurious**?

So, what really happened?

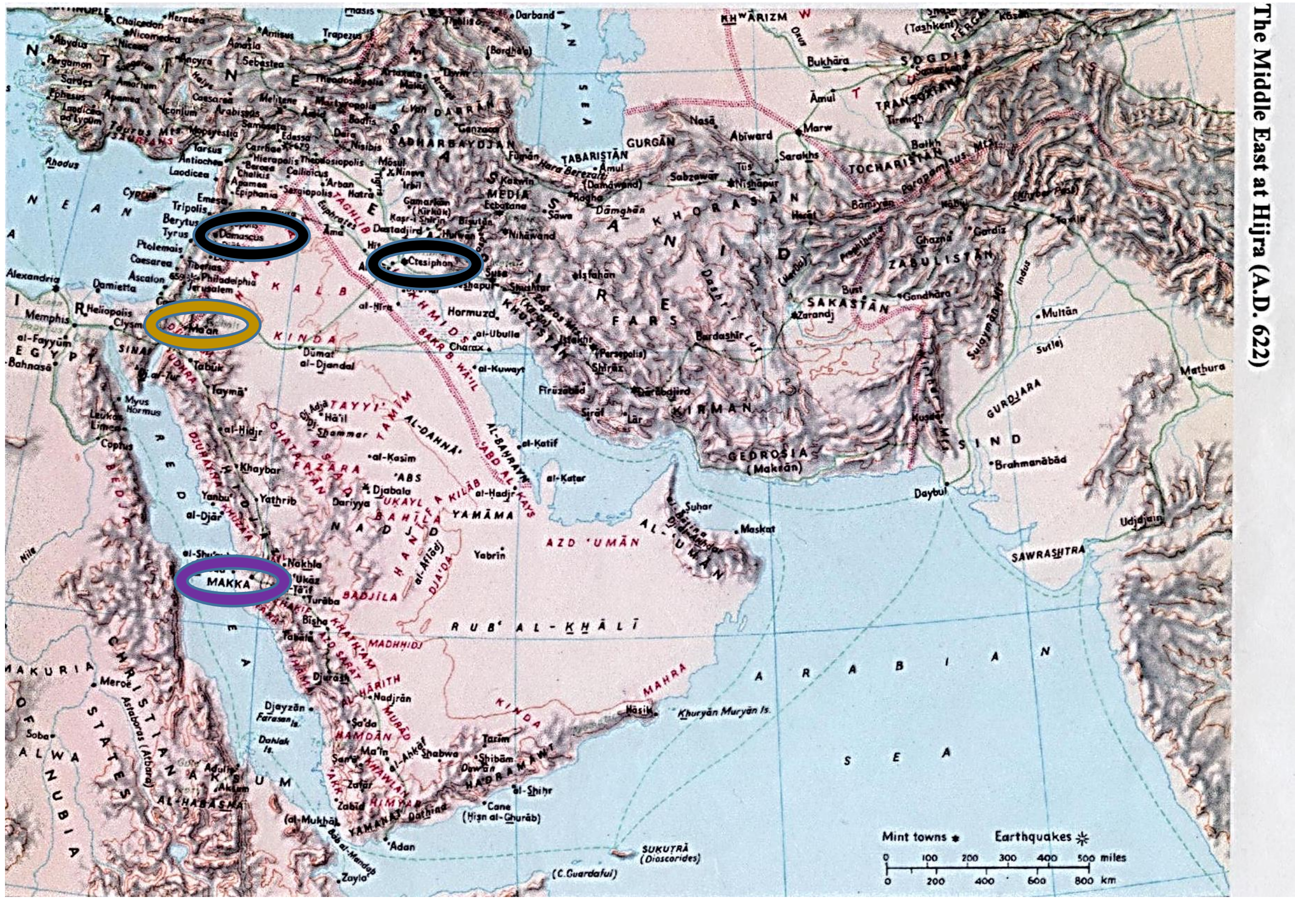
A possible scenario (September 2019)…

- To make sense of all of this, we will need to begin with **Abdullah ibn Zubayr**, the governor of Petra, under Abd al-Malik, the Umayyad caliph from 685 – 705 AD
- Zubayr rebelled in **683 AD**, against the Umayyad power in **Damascus**
  - Why were they not in Medina, or Mecca?
  - He begins the 2nd civil war
- Zubayr **destroys** the Ka'aba in **Petra**, then takes the **black stone** from there, and flees to the **Hijaz** (perhaps to Mecca?)
- The **Abbasids**, who are in control in Kufa, join the rebellion, and support Zubayr

Note the cities on the map below

Comparing Damascus, Petra, Mecca, and Baghdad

- **Damascus** is the political capital of the Umayyads
- It is 1,000 miles north of **Mecca**
- **Petra** is the religious sanctuary for the Umayyads
- It is 600 miles north of **Mecca**
- **Baghdad** is the political capital of the Abbasids
- **Mecca** is the religious sanctuary of the Abbasids



The need for an Arab Identity

The Arabs had been in power since the Mid 7th century, but they had no religious identity

- Abd al Malik, ruled politically from 685 – 705 AD, in Damascus
- He needs an Arab Identity
- The Arabs had now controlled that part of the world since 642 AD
- Yet, for that roughly 40 year period they were dependent on Jews & Christians to run their empire
    - Mawla (s.), or Mawalis (p.) = non Arab converts who lived in cities
    - The Jews and Christians had their own prophetic line, their own identity
- Yet, the Arabs, though rulers, had no prophetic line, & no identity of their own
- This **identity was created and introduced by Abd al Malik**
- Let's see how he created that identity…

Abd Al Malik is known as the great Arab Reformer:

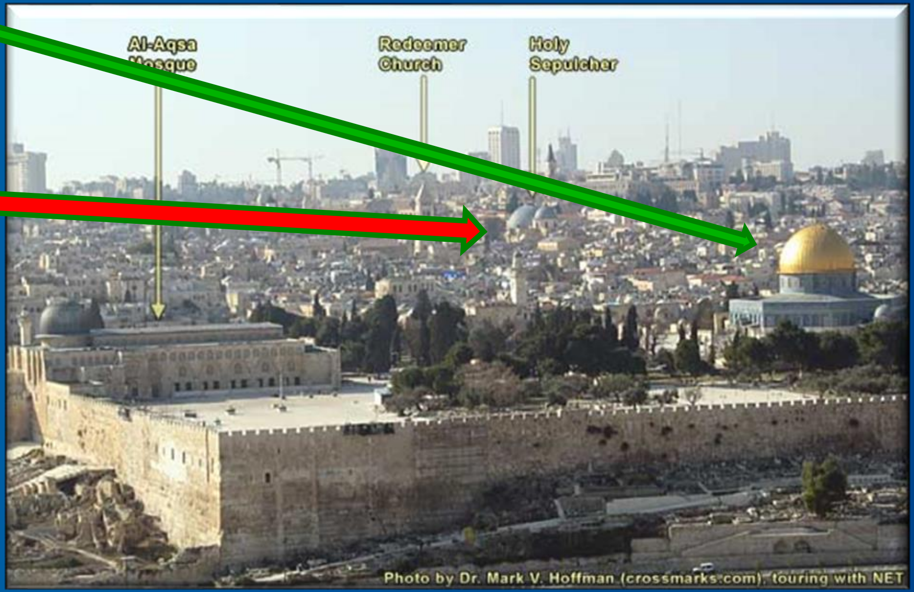
Abd al Malik builds the Dome of the Rock in 691 AD

The largest Arab structure & **higher** than the Christian **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

DOME OF THE ROCK

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

AL AQSA MOSQUE

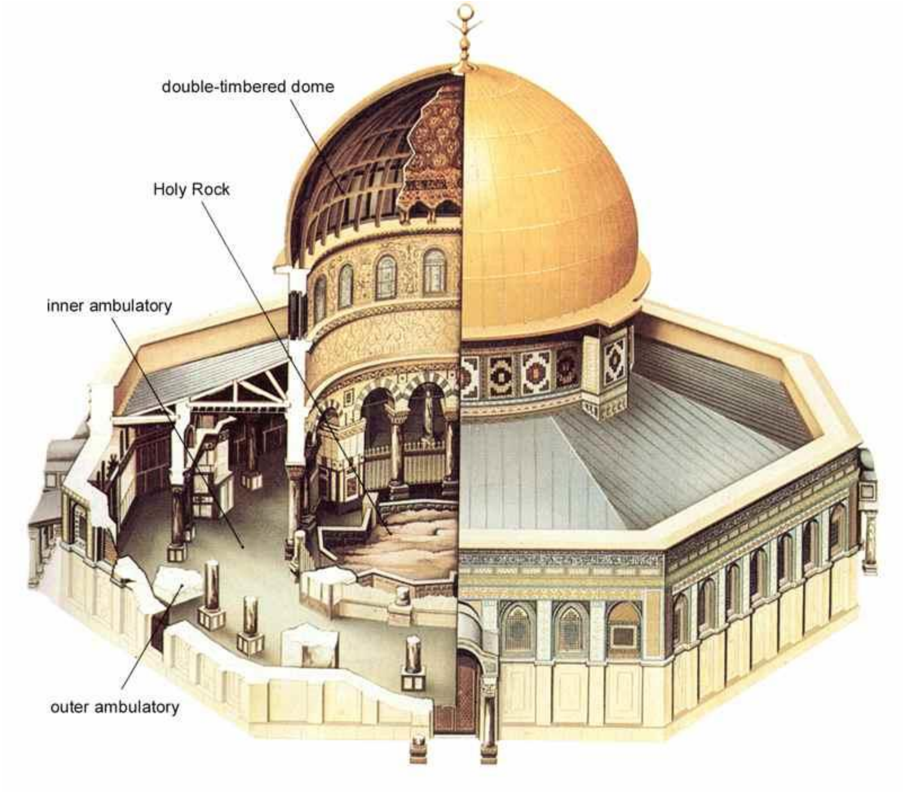


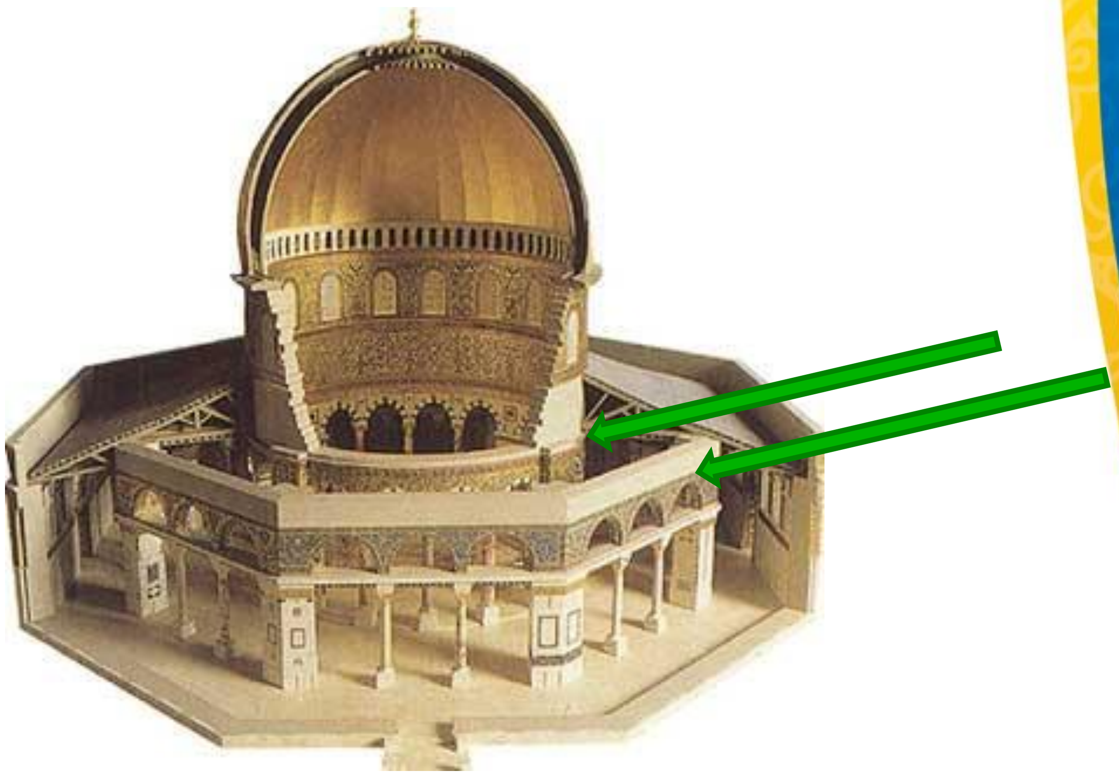
Significance of the Dome of the Rock

Note where it is situated, and in which city?

- It employs the same Byzantine architecture
  - But much larger and more prominent
  - And it sits above the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- It is situated in the holiest city for Jews & Christians
  - Why not in Damascus or Mecca?
  - Muslims say this is because of the 'Mi'raj' (night journey)…but is it?
- Let's look at the Inscriptions & see if this is true

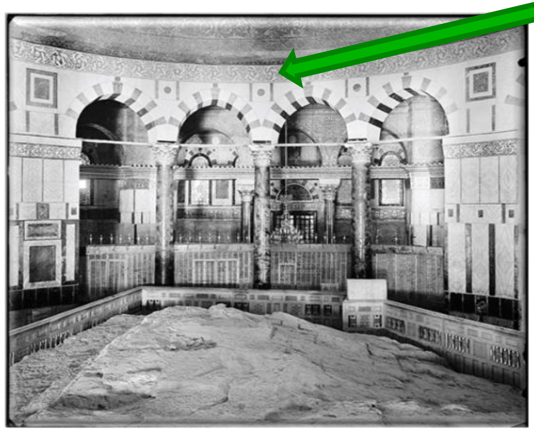
INNER & OUTER AMBULATORY





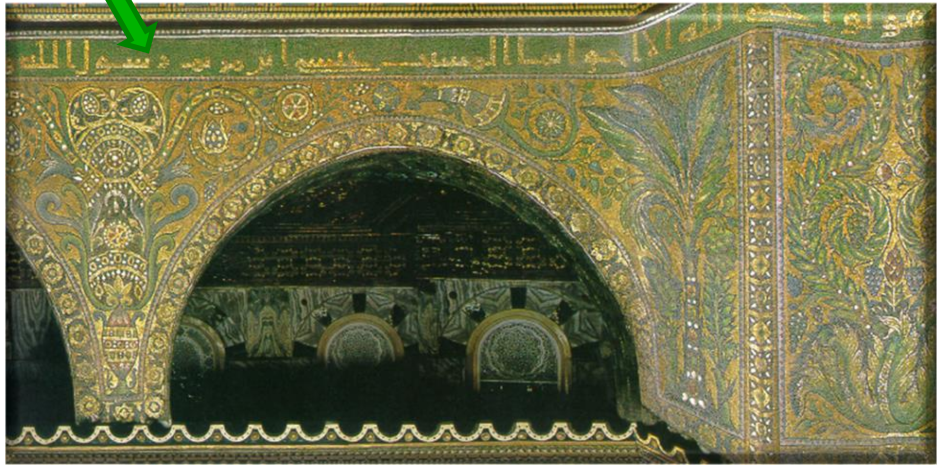
AMBULATORY ARABIC INSCRIPTIONS

Inner Ambulatory (some inscriptions)



Upper Dome
(with Inscriptions)

Outer Ambulatory
(many inscriptions)



The Inscriptions are against **Jesus**, in contrast to **Muhammad**

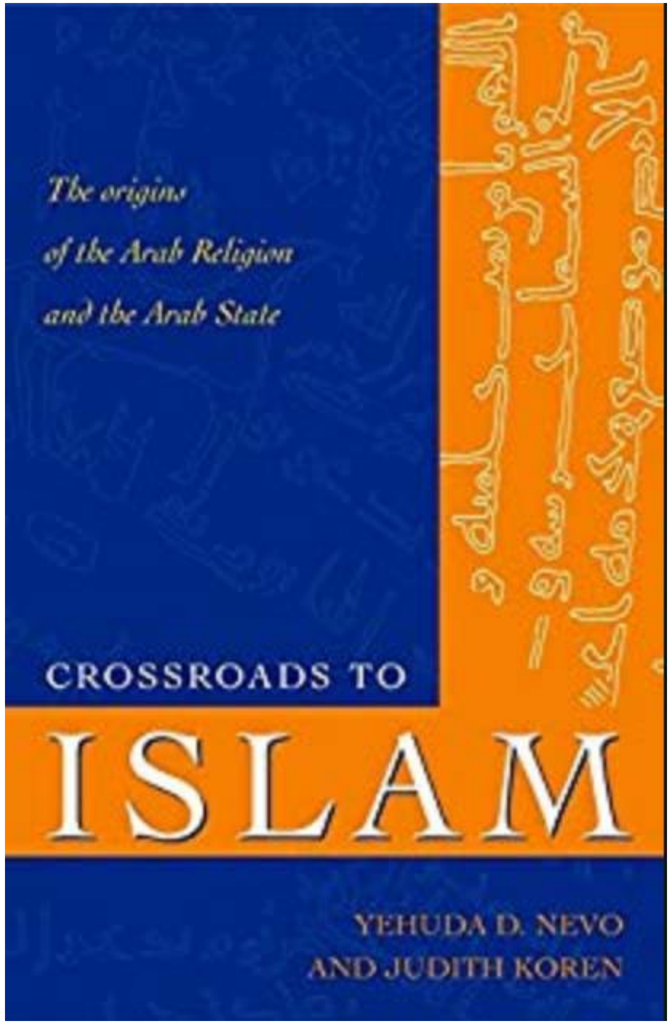
Notice the references are all 'Qur'anic', yet they all attack the trinity, and Jesus' divinity

- *"**O People of the Scripture**! **Do not exaggerate in your religion** nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, **Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah**, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and **say not "Three". Cease**! (it is) better for you! Allah is only One God. Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty **that he should have a son**."   (**Sura 4:171**)*
- "'Praise be to God, Who **hath not taken unto Himself a son**, and Who **hath no partner** in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence" (**Sura 17:111**)
- *"There is no god but God. He is One. **He has no associate**. Say: He is God, the One! God, the eternally Besought of all! **He begetteth not nor was begotten**. And there is **none comparable unto Him**. **Muhammad is the Messenger of God**"* (**Sura 112**)

The Caliphal Protocols

Yehuda Nevo: “Crossroads to Islam”

- Beginning with the **Sufyani Period** (661 – 680 AD)
  - The Protocols do not mention:
    - Islam
    - Muslims
    - Muhammad
    - Qur’an
- The **Marwanid Protocols** are similar
- But, during **Abdul al Malik’s** reign, and in **691 AD**
  - The **Bismillah** and **Muhammad** are introduced overnight!
  - And this continues from then on!



Abd al Malik (692 AD), the great Arab Reformer, creates the first 'Muslim' coins, introducing Islam

He makes **Arabic** the International **language**, and introduces the first Islamic **COINS**

Byzantine Dinar
[mid 7th century]

(Emperor, Retainers, & Byzantine Cross)

Abd al Malik's Coins
[685-692]

(Image of Abd al-Malik, with the 'Shahada')

Sufyani Dirham
[post 661]

(Caliph Mu'awiyya holding a cross)

Abd al-Malik's Coins
[696 ->]

(No images, and the 'Shahada', with Qur'anic verses)

The need for a ‘Man’

Abd al Malik introduces here his Arab Identity, in the guise of an Arab prophet

- Beginning with the Dome of the Rock (691 AD)
  - *It’s larger than any other non-Arab structure*
  - *It’s facing the Arab sanctuary (Petra)*
  - *It incorporates inscriptions against Byzantine Christianity*
  - *It introduces their faith: ‘**Islam**’*
  - *It introduces their people: ‘**Muslim**’*
  - *It introduces their prophet: ‘**Muhammad**’*
- The Caliphal Protocols change over night in 691 AD, introducing Muhammad there as well
- Then he mints new Coins in 692-696 AD
  - *Replaces his image, and introduces Muhammad*
  - *Announces the ‘**Shahada**’ on these coins, as well as Qur’anic verses attacking Jesus & Christianity*

The need for a ‘Book’

Once Abd al Malik introduces Muhammad, he then needs an Arab Revelation

- The earliest Qur’anic texts are on the ‘Dome of the Rock’ (**691 AD**)
- The earliest Qur’anic Manuscripts begin to appear during his reign (i.e. the lower text of the Sana’a Manuscript = **late 7th century**)
- The Qur’anic manuscripts begin to proliferate during the reign of his son Al Walid (**705 – 715 AD**)
- None of the manuscripts are complete, nor do they parallel today’s Qur’an completely
- They continue to be changed and corrected by later Caliphs (up to the **9th century AD**)
- The Qur’an is finally canonized, at Al Azhar University, in Cairo, Egypt, in **1924** (just 94 years ago!
- And finally, as we shall see, there are still currently 32 different versions of the Arabic Qur’an
- And over 4,000 corrections in the earliest Qur’anic manuscripts

The need for a ‘Place’

Two Empires compete to create an Arab sanctuary

- The **Umayyad** (and earlier Nabataean) sanctuary in **Petra** was destroyed by an earthquake in **713 AD**, thus a new place is needed…**Mecca**, 1st noted in **727 AD**
- **Mecca** was possibly chosen by the rebel **Abdallah Ibn Zubayr** & those from Baghdad and Kufa (the **Abbasids**), in defiance of the Umayyads, and Petra
- The Abbasids, and Zubayr, with their sanctuary in Mecca, then demand allegiance to the surrounding tribes
- Now we can see why we have 4 Qiblas…

Why 4 Qiblas?

Two Empires compete to create an Arab sanctuary

1) The earliest Qiblas which faced **Petra** had allegiance to the **Umayyads** in **Damascus**

2) All those Qiblas facing **Mecca** are those who allied themselves to the **Abbasids**

3) **Al Hajjaj** rebels against both, & it is his mosques which are facing in **between** the two other sanctuaries, waiting to see who would finally win out

4) Those in **No. Africa** and **Andalusia** don't show allegiance to either empire either, so they have their mosques facing **parallel** to each sanctuary

- Thus, these They are all groups who are waiting to see which side would control before giving their allegiance to either
- When the Abbasids finally overpower the Umayyads in **749 AD**, most of the Qiblas then face Mecca, with a few holdouts, until by **822 AD**, after which they all face **Mecca**...up to the present time
- These Qiblas were chosen for political purposes, not religious

A POSSIBLE SCENARIO

Here's a 'What if' possibility

Now that the Muslims have:

- A Prophet (Muhammad)
- A Revelation (the Qur'an)
- A Sanctuary (Mecca)

They then need a **history**

- The **Sira** is finally introduced in 833 AD
- The **Hadith** in 870 AD (from 600,000 Akhbars to 7,397)
- The **Tafsir** in 923 AD

So, by the 9th - 10th centuries, they then have the 'Book', the 'Man', the 'Place', and the 'Story'…

And a new religion is formed, and growing…

Yet, not within a mere 22 years, but evolving over 200 - 300 years!

Summation

New Books are questioning the Classical Account of Islam's Beginnings, with questions such as:

- Why are there no Muslim sources for 200 Years?
- Why do the claims they make not fit the historical record?
- Why are the geographical references so few & confusing?
- Why do they all seem to be much further north?
- Why are there so many references to Vegetation which wouldn't exist in Mecca?
- Why is Mecca not mentioned until 741 AD, nor included in any maps until 900 AD?
- Why do all the Qiblas face Petra for the first 100 years, then are confused the next 100, & aren't standardized to Mecca until 822 AD, 200 years too late!?
- Why do the 7th century Arab coins have no traces of Islam on them…that is, until 692 AD?
- What is Abd al Malik's role in all of this?
- Does a nascent Islam really begin with him?

What about Muhammad?

How should we critique him, considering this new information we now have about him?

- Since much of what we now know about early Islam is in doubt
- Since much of the Qur'an is also in doubt
- Since nothing is known of **Muhammad** until the late 7th century, or **Mecca** until the mid 8th, or his **story** until the 9th, 100's of years later, and 100's of miles away
- Can we then conclude that Islam is nothing more than a later **redaction**, possibly begun by **Abd al-Malik**!?
- Then continued by his descendants?
- Proving Muhammad had nothing to do with the Qur'an!
- So **who is he, and what is his purpose?!**

It looks like, the Muslims have the **wrong man**, at the **wrong place**,

doing the **wrong thing**, at the **wrong time**!

What about Jesus?

How should we critique him, using the same historical criteria we used for Muhammad?

- We know where Jesus was **born** (Bethlehem)
- We know where Jesus **grew up** (Nazareth)
- We know where Jesus **died**, and when (Jerusalem)
- We know what Jesus **did** (the last 3 years)
- We know this all from **eye-witness** accounts (Matthew & John)
- We know this as well from **hostile** accounts (Thallus, Tacitus, Josephus)
- We know when they were **written** (between 15-60 years later)
- We know that few doubt his historicity

THUS CHRISTIANS HAVE THE **RIGHT MAN** AT THE **RIGHT PLACE**

DOING THE **RIGHT THING** AT THE **RIGHT TIME**!!

Where to from here?

Historians set the stage, we move it on. The questions they ask we research and expand

- We must confront Islam's historical foundations
- We must challenge Muhammad & the Qur'an
- We must demand the same of our Bible & Jesus Christ
- We must bring both into the 'Public Sphere', and then let people come to their own conclusions

Why? Because similar **Historical questions** have already all been asked of Christianity, and ANSWERED!

- **We need to bring our friends 'home'**

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Please do not post class notes, power points or videos on any social media outlets, or forward to anyone outside of the Pfander Foundations Course. The content, however, use as much as you can to inform the church, and "*bring Muslims home*"

Rock Inscriptions prove Islam didn't exist in the 7th century!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBdT5L030d0